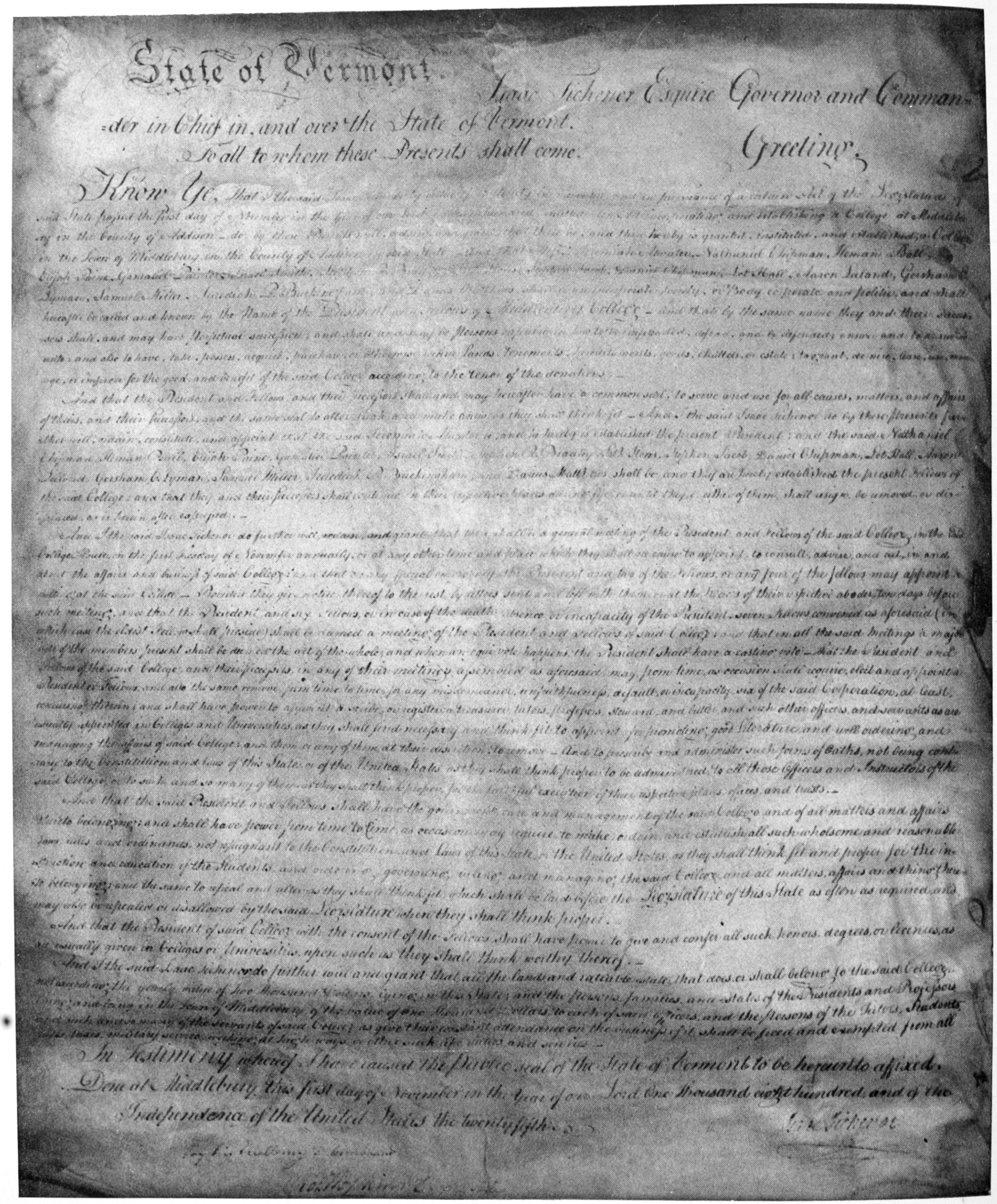
THE MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE NEWS LETTER

SENT BY THE COLLEGE TO ALL MIDDLEBURY MEN AND WOMEN

SESQUICENTENNIAL EDITION

Volume XXV September, 1950 No. 1

1800~1950



State of Vermont.

Isaac Tichenor Esquire Governor and Commander in Chief in, and over the State of Vermont.

To all to whom these Presents shall come. Greeting.

Know Ye, That I the said [illegible] in pursuance of a certain Act of the Legislature of said State passed the first day of November in the year of our Lord [illegible] incorporating and establishing a College at Middlebury in the County of Addison — do by these Presents will, ordain, [illegible] and there hereby is granted, instituted, and established, a College in the Town of Middlebury in the County of Addison [illegible] Nathaniel Chipman, Heman Ball, Elijah Paine, Gamaliel Painter, Israel Smith, [illegible] Stephen Jacob, Daniel Chipman, Lot Hall, Aaron Leland, Gershom C. Lyman, Samuel Miller, [illegible] Buckingham and Darius Matthews shall be an incorporate Society, or Body corporate and politic, and shall hereafter be called and known by the Name of the President and Fellows of Middlebury College — and that by the same name they and their successors shall, and may have perpetual succession; and shall [illegible] persons capable in law to be impleaded, defend, and be defended, answer and be answered unto: and also to have, take, possess, acquire, purchase or otherwise receive Lands, Tenements, hereditaments, goods, chattels, or estate: to grant, demise, lease, use, manage, or improve for the good and benefit of the said College according to the tenor of the donations. —

And that the President and Fellows and their successors shall and may hereafter have a common seal, to serve and use for all causes, matters, and affairs of theirs, and their successors, and the same seal to alter, break and make anew as they shall think fit. — And I the said Isaac Tichenor do by these Presents further will, ordain, constitute, and appoint that the said Jeremiah Atwater be, and he hereby is established the present President: and the said Nathaniel Chipman, Heman Ball, Elijah Paine, Gamaliel Painter, Israel Smith, [illegible] Stephen Jacob, Daniel Chipman, Lot Hall, Aaron Leland, Gershom C. Lyman, Samuel Miller, [illegible] Buckingham and Darius Matthews shall be and they are hereby established the present Fellows of the said College: and that they and their successors shall continue in their respective places during life, or until they, either of them, shall resign, be removed, or displaced, as is herein after expressed. —

And I the said Isaac Tichenor do further will, ordain, and grant that there shall be a general meeting of the President and Fellows of the said College, in the said College House on the first Tuesday of November annually, or at any other time and place which they shall see cause to appoint, to consult, advise, and act in and about the affairs and business of said College: and that on any special occasion the President and two of the Fellows, or any four of the Fellows may appoint a meeting at the said College — Provided they give notice thereof to the rest by letters sent and left with them at the places of their respective abodes, ten days before such meeting; and that the President and six Fellows, or in case of the death, absence or incapacity of the President, seven Fellows convened as aforesaid (in which case the eldest Fellow shall preside) shall be deemed a meeting of the President and Fellows of said College; and that in all the said meetings a major vote of the members present shall be deemed the act of the whole, and when an equal vote happens, the President shall have a casting vote — That the President and Fellows of the said College and their successors, in any of their meetings assembled as aforesaid, may, from time, as occasion shall require, elect and appoint a President or Fellows, and also the same remove, from time to time, for any misdemeanor, unfaithfulness, default, or incapacity, six of the said Corporation, at least, concurring therein; and shall have power to appoint a Scribe, or register, a treasurer, tutors, professors, steward and butler and such other officers, and servants as are usually appointed in Colleges and Universities, as they shall find necessary and think fit to appoint for promoting good literature and well ordering and managing the affairs of said College; and them or any of them at their discretion to remove — And to prescribe and administer such forms of Oaths, not being contrary to the Constitution and laws of this State or of the United States as they shall think proper to be administered to all those officers and Instructors of the said College, or to such and so many of them as they shall think proper, for the faithful execution of their respective places, offices and trusts. —

And that the said President and Fellows shall have the government, care and management of the said College and of all matters and affairs thereto belonging; and shall have power from time to time, as occasion may require to make, ordain and establish all such wholesome and reasonable laws, rules and ordinances, not repugnant to the Constitution and laws of this State or the United States, as they shall think fit and proper for the instruction and education of the Students and ordering, governing, ruling and managing the said College, and all matters, affairs and things thereunto belonging; and the same to repeal and alter as they shall think fit, which shall be laid before the Legislature of this State as often as required, and may also be repealed or disallowed by the said Legislature when they shall think proper. —

And that the President of said College with the consent of the Fellows shall have power to give and confer all such honors, degrees, or licenses, as are usually given in Colleges or Universities upon such as they shall think worthy thereof. —

And I the said Isaac Tichenor do further will and grant that all the lands and rateable estate, that does or shall belong to the said College not exceeding the yearly value of [illegible] thousand dollars, lying in this State; and the persons, families, and estates of the Presidents and Professors living and being in the Town of Middlebury of the value of one thousand dollars to each of said officers, and the persons of the Tutors, Students and such and so many of the servants of said College as give their constant attendance on the business of it, shall be freed and exempted from all [illegible] taxes, military service, working at highways or other such like duties and services. —

In Testimony whereof I have caused the Public seal of the State of Vermont to be hereunto affixed.

Done at Middlebury this first day of November in the Year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred, and of the Independence of the United States the twenty fifth.

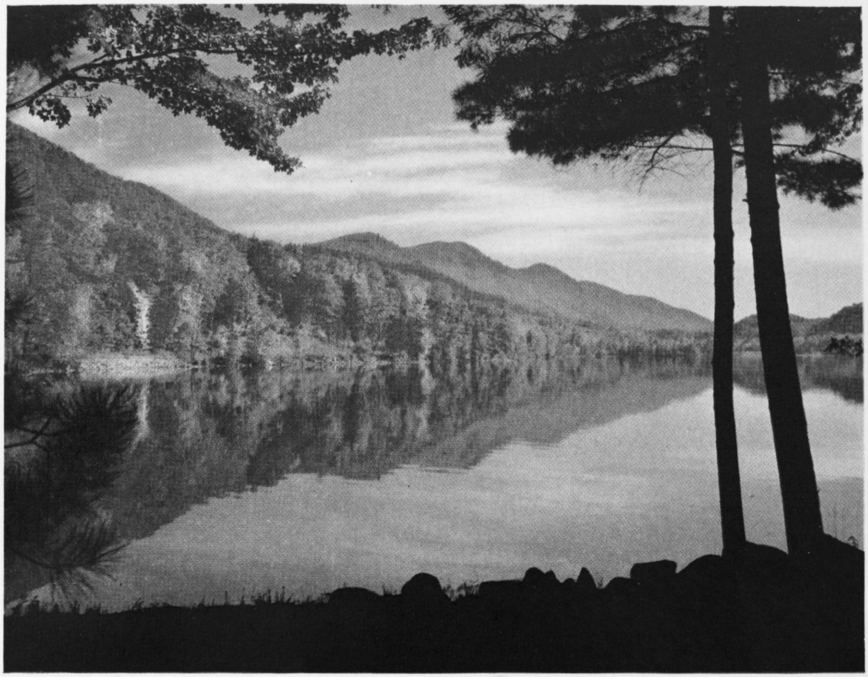
Isaac Tichenor

By his Excellency's Command

[illegible]

THE CHARTER OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Granted by the State of Vermont in 1800



VERMONT of the stern seasons and mountain solitudes, crystal lakes and long trails, full streams, marble quarries and sugar orchards, the rugged spruce, the stump fences and covered bridges, summit sunsets, log cabins and silent clifts—*a home of education.*

One hundred years ago Middlebury College consisted of only two buildings, Old Chapel and Painter Hall. For several generations Old Chapel served as a recitation building in addition to fulfilling its other academic and religious responsibilities. Dressed in the clothing of college youths of a century ago, present day students are shown, in our cover picture, leaving Old Chapel during the year long sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of Middlebury College.

THE NEWS LETTER
Published quarterly by Middlebury College for its Alumni and Alumnae
MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ALUMNI COUNCIL
GEORGE H. HUBAN, *Editor*
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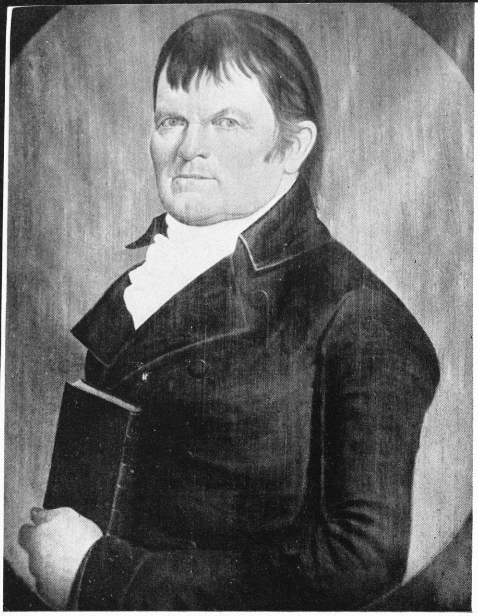


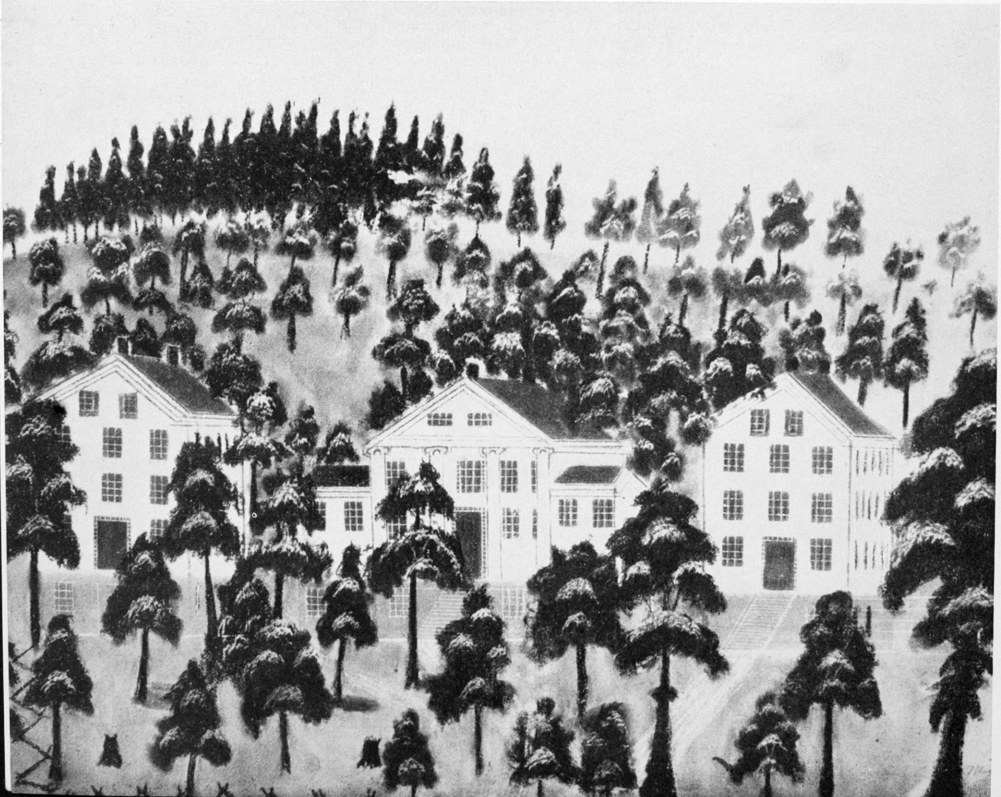
Gamaliel Painter stands forth as the patron saint of Middlebury. It was under his superintendence that Painter Hall was built in 1815.

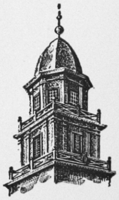
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE was not founded to give voice to any special religious, social, or political creed. It was indigenous, a product of 19th century democracy, financed from the thin purses of local citizens, and expressive of multiform culture brought from southern New England.

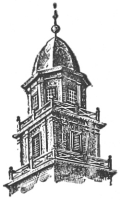
A miller, two lawyers, a doctor, and a President of Yale University conceived the first plan for Middlebury College on the night of September 30, 1798. The miller was Gamaliel Painter, whose name the oldest college building in Vermont still bears; the lawyers, Seth Storrs, donor of the campus of the men's college, and Samuel Miller, who entertained the group at this original meeting; the doctor, Darius Matthews, a probate judge as well as physician; and the Yale President, the great Timothy Dwight.

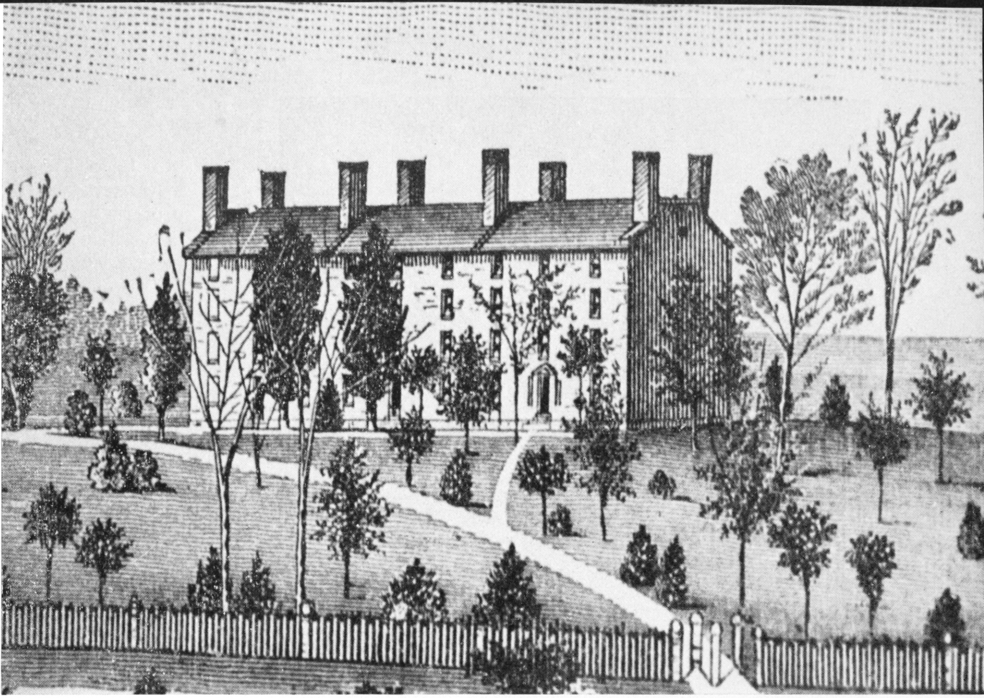
Some thirty log cabins and frame houses, surrounded by wilderness, comprised the settlement at Middlebury

Proposed architect's sketch for erection of college buildings on Chipman Hill in 1812. Chipman Hill is located over a mile from the present Middlebury Campus.





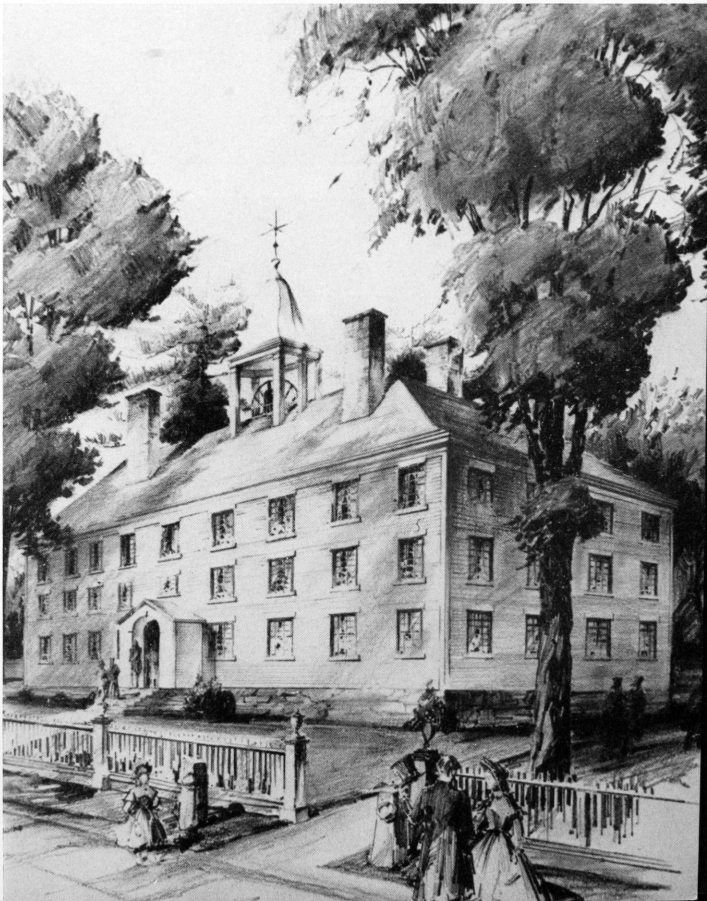




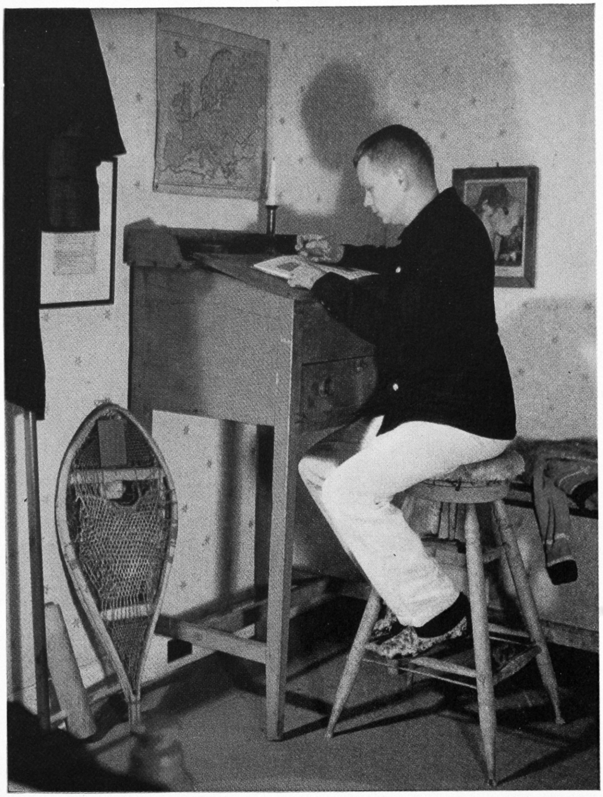
Early drawing of Painter Hall. Erected in 1815, this is the oldest college building in Vermont.

in 1798. No road had yet been built to the pioneer village. The State of Vermont as a part of the Union was only seven years old and its Legislature still roved from town to town for its annual meeting. Grist and saw mills, a few shops for mechanics and blacksmiths, a rough inn and a brewery offered the principal commercial accent to the village. A church had not even been constructed. Still the establishment of a college, as well as a grammar school, seemed imperative to these immigrants from Connecticut.

President Dwight, in his visit of a single night, helped to outline a plan for procedure, but it took two years to persuade the Legislature that the request for founding a college in this wilderness should be honored.



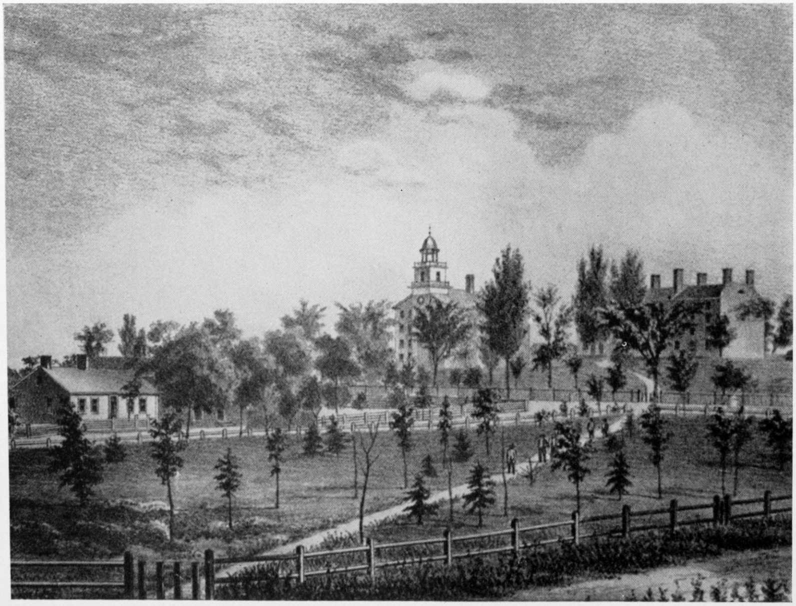
Artist's conception of East College. Built in 1798 for use of the Addison County Grammar School, this building was used by the College for classes and students' rooms until 1815 when Painter Hall was completed. It continued to serve the College until 1861.



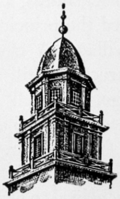
College room of 1810

A charter was finally granted on November 1, 1800, and Jeremiah Atwater, a Yale graduate, appointed President; seven students were admitted the following day and Middlebury was under way, lodged in a building just completed for the Addison County Grammar School. President Atwater and one tutor comprised the entire administrative and teaching staff. Under them the first student was graduated in August, 1802.

It was distinctly a man's college. Women were not even admitted inside the rail fence which surrounded the campus protectively. Yet the village of Middlebury did not neglect the education of women. Within three years after the men's college was started, a "Female Academy," one of the first in America, was established here; and it was in Middlebury that Emma Hart (Willard) opened her first school for girls and wrote what has been called the *Magna Carta* for higher education of women. Although the College did not become coeducational for over eighty years after it was

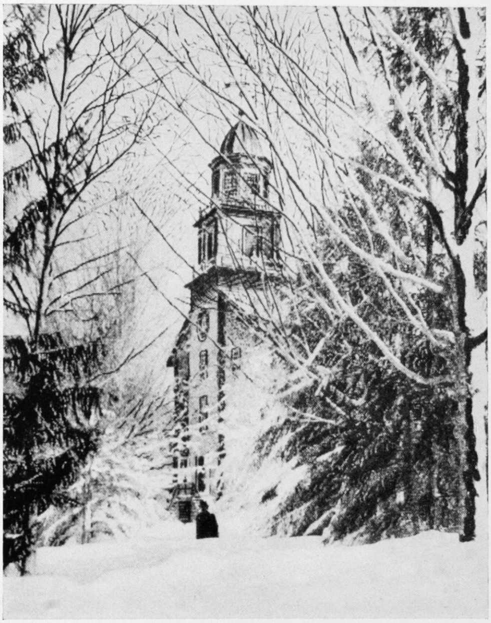


Middlebury in 1849



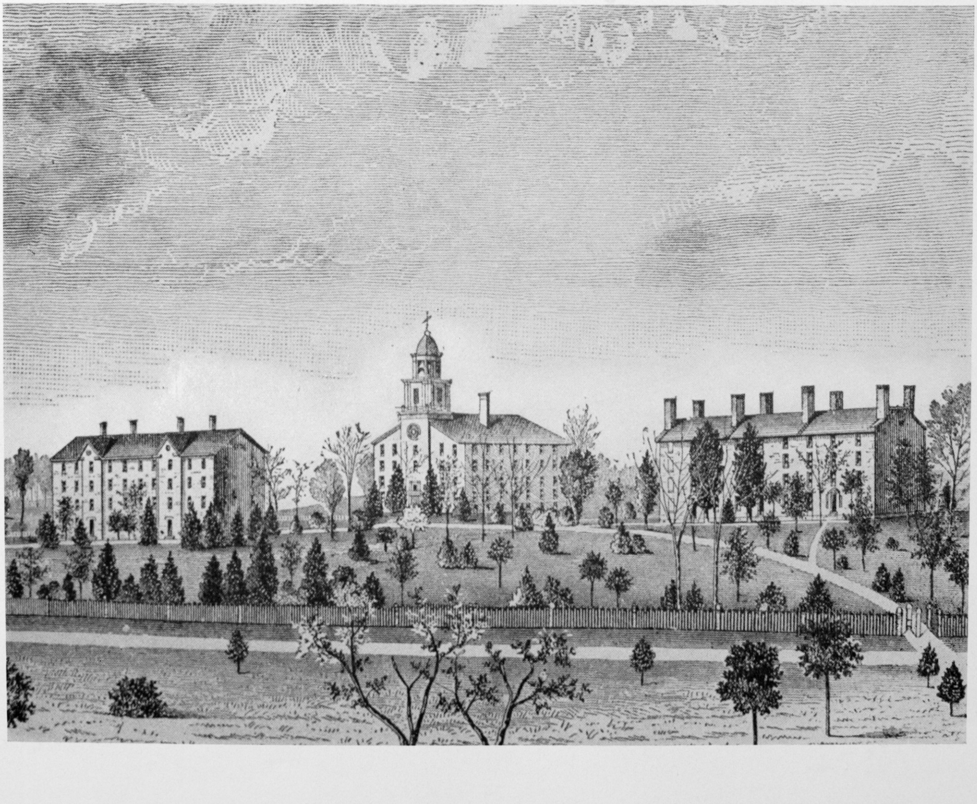
founded, the tradition for women's education was strongly fixed at an early date. In spite of repeated earlier appeals, women were not admitted until 1883, after the Alumni had petitioned for the change. Eight years later the first dormitory, Battell Hall, was opened.

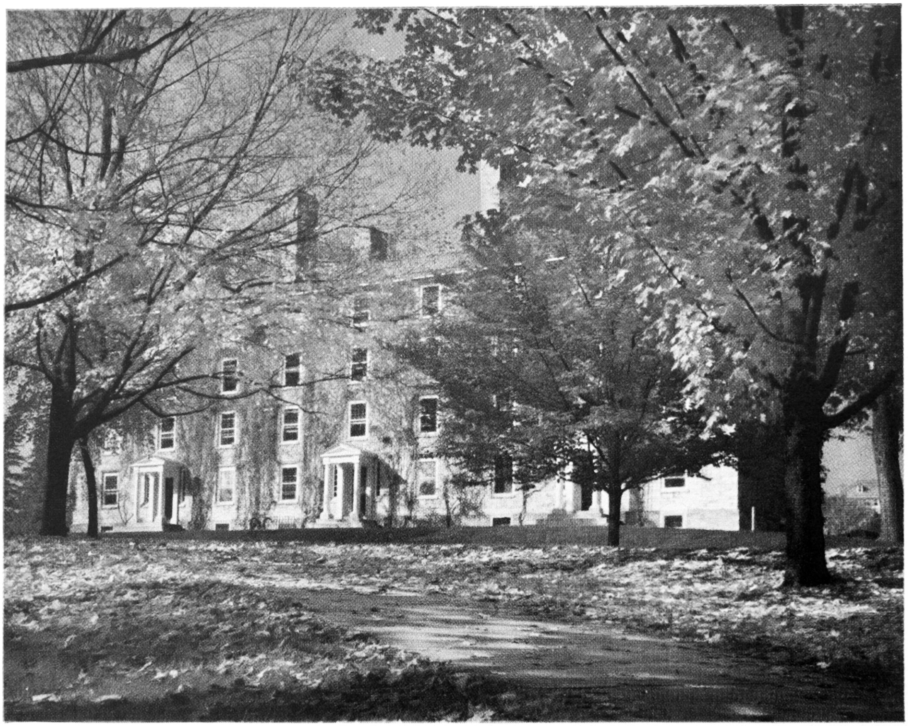
The Middlebury College Summer Language Schools of English, French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish, have achieved international reputation, while the Bread Loaf School of English and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference have served as models for similar undertakings in various parts of the country. The Composers' Conference and Chamber Music Center was founded in 1946, and three years later in the fall of 1949 the Graduate School of French in France was inaugurated.

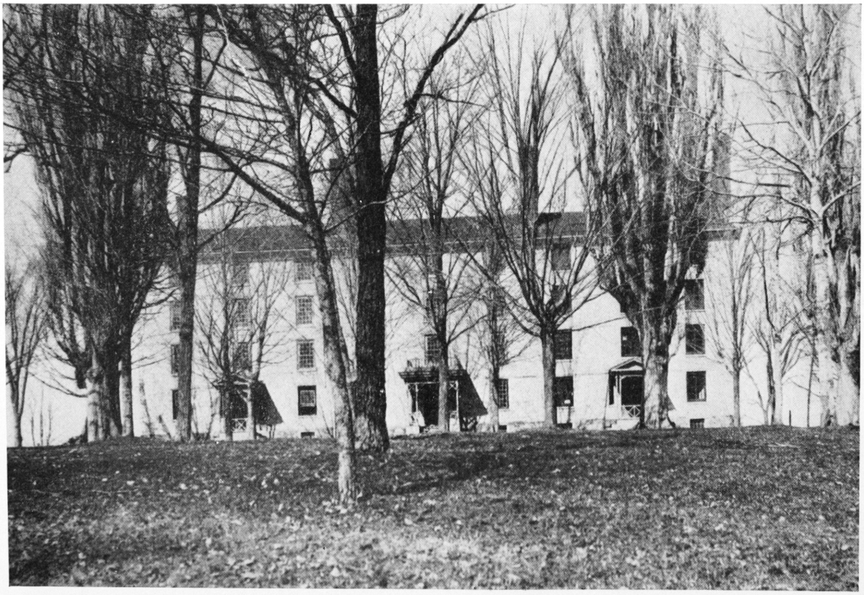


Old Chapel, built in 1836 →

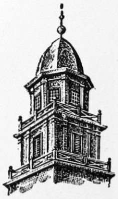
The Campus in 1865. ↓

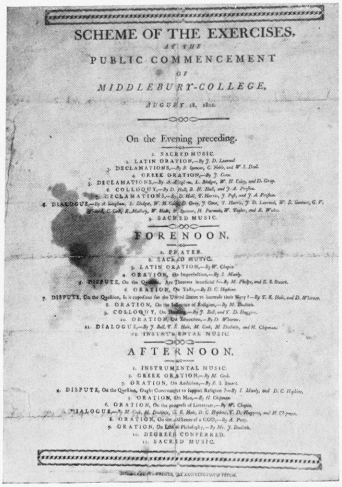






A study in contrast shows Painter Hall as it appears today (above) and as it appeared over a century ago (below).





SCHEME OF THE EXERCISES,
AT THE
PUBLIC COMMENCEMENT
OF
MIDDLEBURY-COLLEGE,
AUGUST 18, 1802.

On the Evening preceding.

1. SACRED MUSIC.
2. LATIN ORATION,—*By J. D. Learned.*
3. DECLAMATIONS,—*By B. Spencer, C. Noble, and W. S. Deal.*
4. GREEK ORATION,—*By J. Gove.*
5. DECLAMATIONS,—*By A. Kingsman, L. Bledget, W. H. Caley, and D. Gray.*
6. COLLOQUY,—*By D. Hall, B. H. Hall, and J. A. Preston.*
7. DECLAMATIONS,—*By D. Hall, T. Harris, J. Post, and J. A. Preston.*
8. DIALOGUE,—*By A. Kingsman, L. Bledget, W. H. Caley, D. Gray, J. Gove, T. Harris, J. D. Learned, W. B. Sommer, G. F. Howard, C. Cook, R. Mallory, W. Slade, B. Spencer, H. Parmele, W. Taylor, and E. Wales.*
9. SACRED MUSIC.

FORENOON.

1. PRAYER.
2. SACRED MUSIC.
3. LATIN ORATION,—*By W. Chapin.*
4. ORATION, On Imperfection,—*By I. Manly.*
5. DISPUTE, On the Question, Are Theatres beneficial?—*By M. Phelps, and E. S. Stuart.*
6. ORATION, On Taste,—*By D. C. Hopkins.*
7. DISPUTE, On the Question, Is it expedient for the United States to increase their Navy?—*By T. E. Hale, and D. Wheeler.*
8. ORATION, On the Influence of Religion,—*By M. Doolittle.*
9. COLLOQUY, On Dancing,—*By J. Bell, and T. D. Huggins.*
10. ORATION, On Education,—*By D. Wheeler.*
11. DIALOGUE,—*By J. Bell, T. E. Hale, M. Cook, M. Doolittle, and H. Chipman.*
12. INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

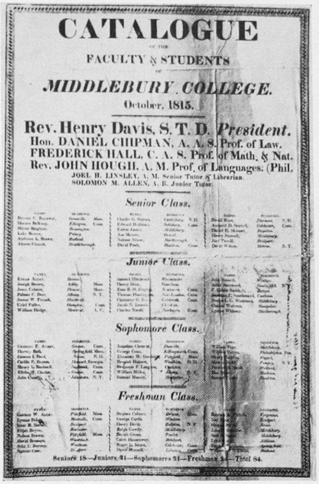
AFTERNOON.

1. INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.
2. GREEK ORATION,—*By M. Cook.*
3. ORATION, On Ambition,—*By E. S. Stuart.*
4. DISPUTE, On the Question, Ought Government to support Religion?—*By I. Manly, and D. C. Hopkins.*
5. ORATION, On Man,—*By H. Chipman.*
6. ORATION, On the progress of Literature,—*By W. Chapin.*
7. DIALOGUE,—*By M. Cook, M. Doolittle, T. E. Hale, D. C. Hopkins, T. D. Huggins, and H. Chipman.*
8. ORATION, On the Existence of a GOD,—*By A. Petty.*
9. ORATION, On Liberal Philosophy,—*By Mr. J. Doolittle.*
10. DEGREES CONFERRED.
11. SACRED MUSIC.

MIDDLEBURY—PRINTED, BY HUNTINGTON & FITCH.

Commencement Program, 1802

1800



CATALOGUE
OF THE
FACULTY & STUDENTS
OF
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE.
October, 1815.

Rev. Henry Davis, S. T. D. *President.*
Hon. DANIEL CHIPMAN, A. A. S. Prof. of Law.
FREDERICK HALL, C. A. S. Prof. of Math. & Nat. (Phil.
Rev. JOHN HOUGH, A. M. Prof. of Languages.
JOEL H. LINSLEY, A. M. Senior Tutor & Librarian.
SOLOMON M. ALLEN, A. B. Junior Tutor.

Senior Class.

Junior Class.

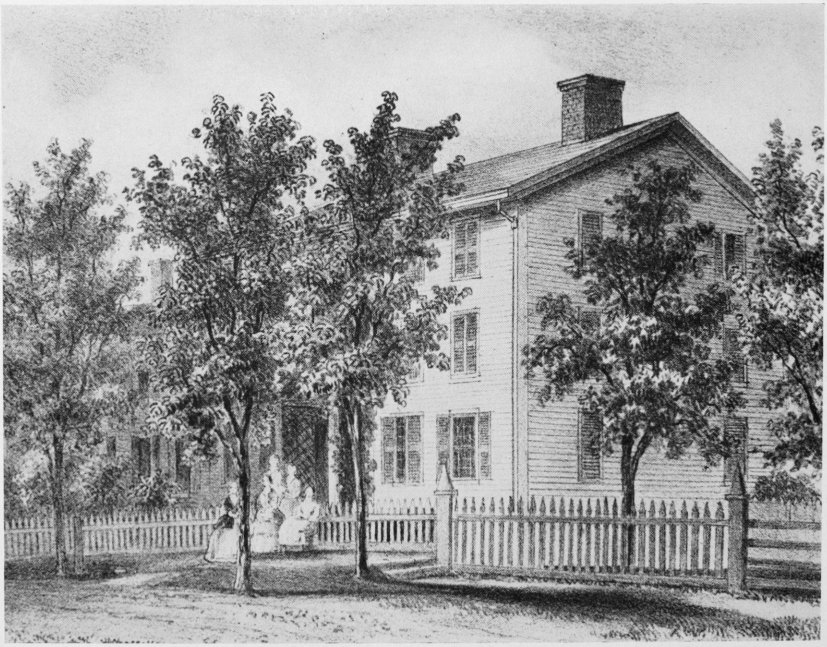
Sophomore Class.

Freshman Class.

Seniors 18—Juniors 21—Sophomores 21—Freshmen [illegible]—Total 84.

Catalogue, 1815

Three years after the establishment of Middlebury College a "Female Academy," one of the first in America, was established in Middlebury by Emma Hart Willard.



Samuel Sommerville Stratton
Eleventh President of Middlebury College
1943–

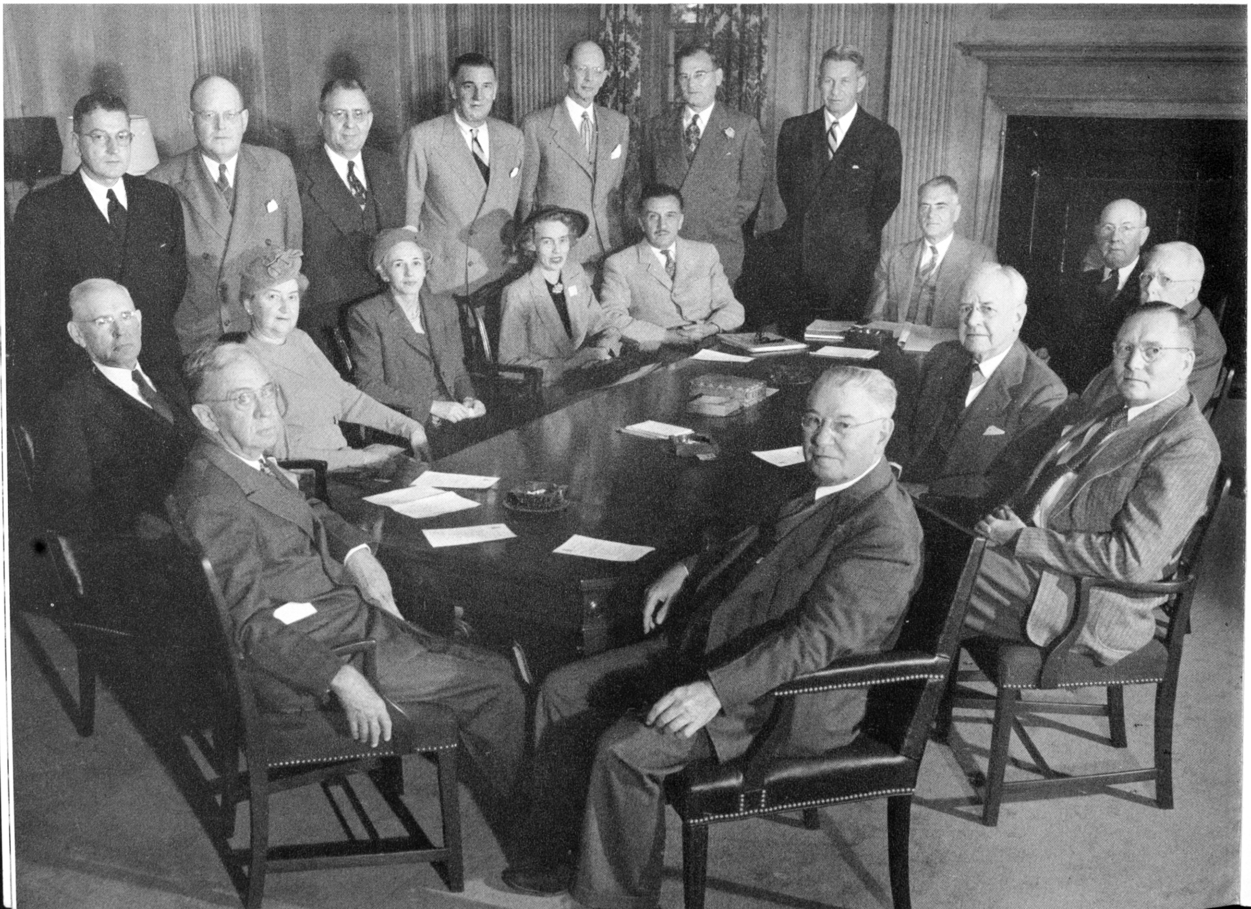
Middlebury Leaders

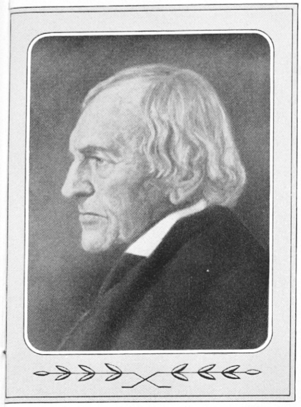
Past and Present

The Board of Trustees, *seated left to right*, are: Redfield Proctor, Elbert S. Brigham, Mrs. Gertrude C. Milliken, Miss Evelyn Ryle, Mrs. Alice G. Howson, President Stratton, Egbert C. Hadley, George H. V. Allen, Hall P. McCullough, Edwin S. S. Sunderland, Elbert C. Cole, and Walter H. Cleary.

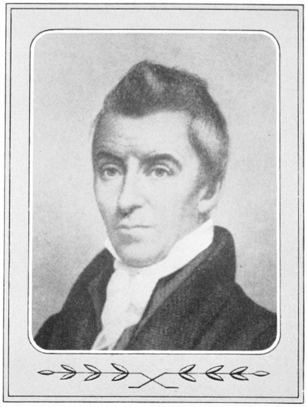
Standing are: Carleton H. Simmons, William H. Edmunds, William M. Meacham, Joseph P. Kasper, John A. Arnold, Moses G. Hubbard, Jr., and Fred P. Lang.

Not in the picture are: Dr. Stewart Ross, Albert H. Wiggin, Horace S. Ford, and Leon S. Gay.

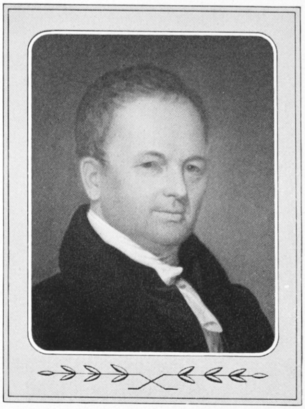




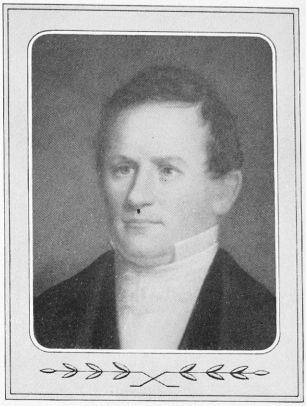
Jeremiah Atwater
1800–1809



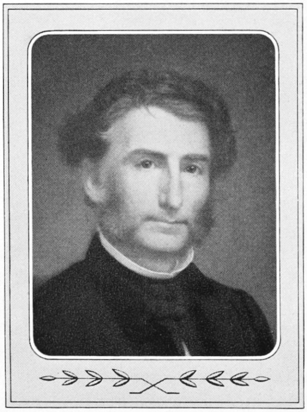
Henry Davis
1809–1817



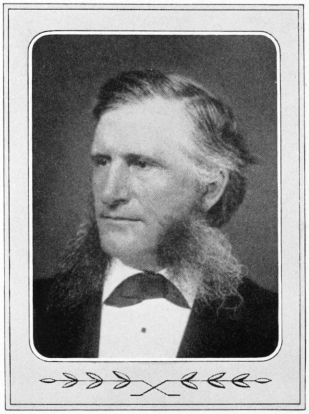
Joshua Bates
1818–1839



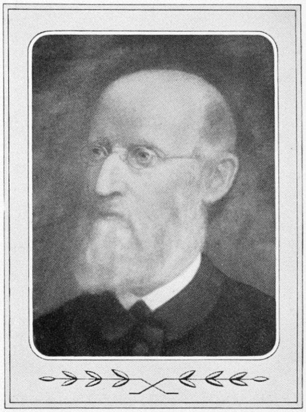
Benjamin Labaree
1840–1866



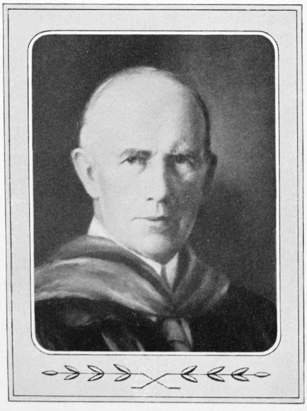
Harvey Denison Kitchel
1866–1873



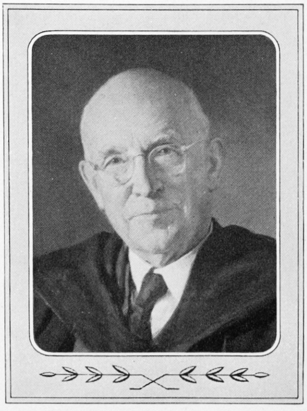
Calvin Butler Hulbert
1875–1880



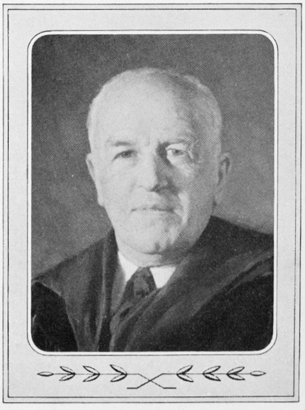
Cyrus Hamlin
1880–1885



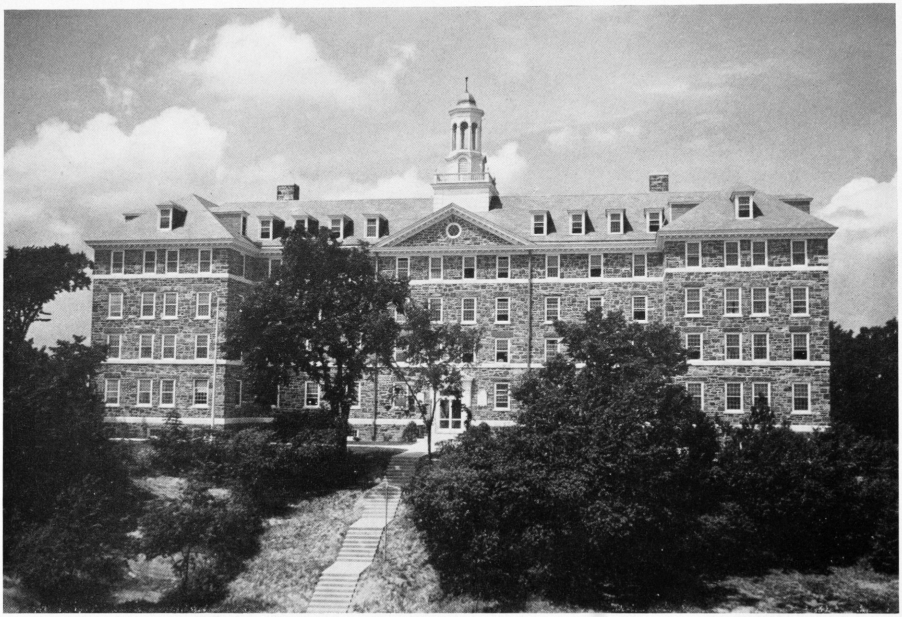
Ezra Brainerd
1885–1908



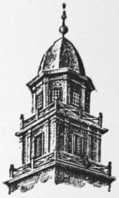
John Martin Thomas
1908–1921



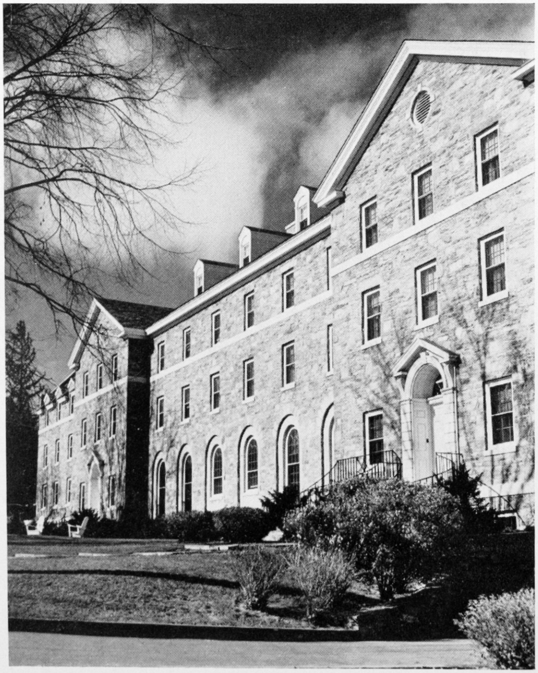
Paul Dwight Moody
1921–1943



Gifford Hall

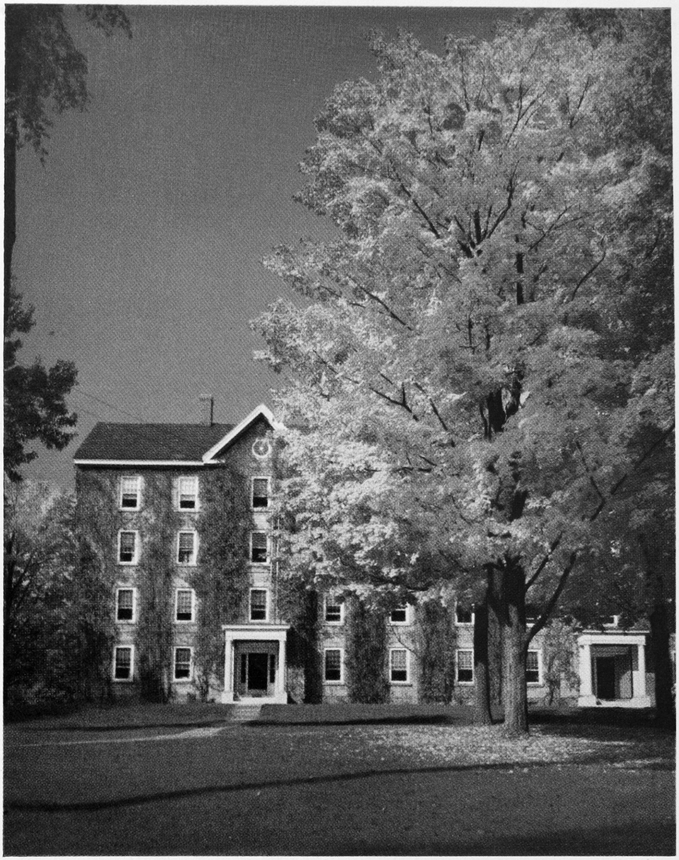


Forest Hall



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE is located on a broad hill overlooking a typical Vermont village and a wide sweep of the Champlain Valley. The local campus contains about 250 acres on which are located in quadrangles the dormitories, library, class and administration buildings. Most of these are constructed of grey limestone and marble, in keeping with the oldest campus structures. The mountain campus, a unique possession of Middlebury, is located twelve miles to the east and contains 13,000 acres and some of the higher peaks in the State.

The Adirondacks and Green Mountains, both clearly visible from the college hill, flank the varied countryside of the Champlain Valley, of which Middlebury is the heart. Shaded lanes and secondary roads branching off the main highways lead to rolling farmlands, rocky gorges, and the rising foothills. The winding Otter courses past the campus and under the main street of the town, over falls which once gave the early settlement the power for its marble mills, its saw mills, its grist mills. The double-lane Pulp Mill Bridge just below the falls is believed to be the oldest wooden-covered bridge in Vermont, and another nearly as ancient straddles the creek on the other side of town. Within walking distance is a swifter stream with a sandy beach and a deep "swimming hole," and farther afield are mountain brooks and pools and Lake Champlain.

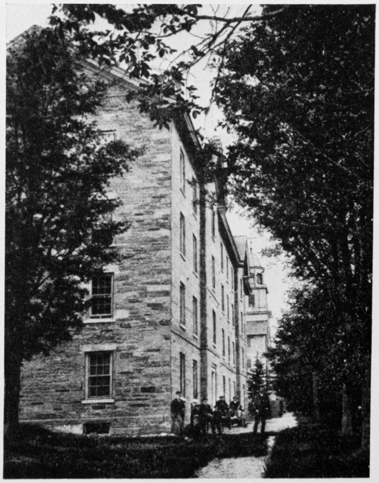


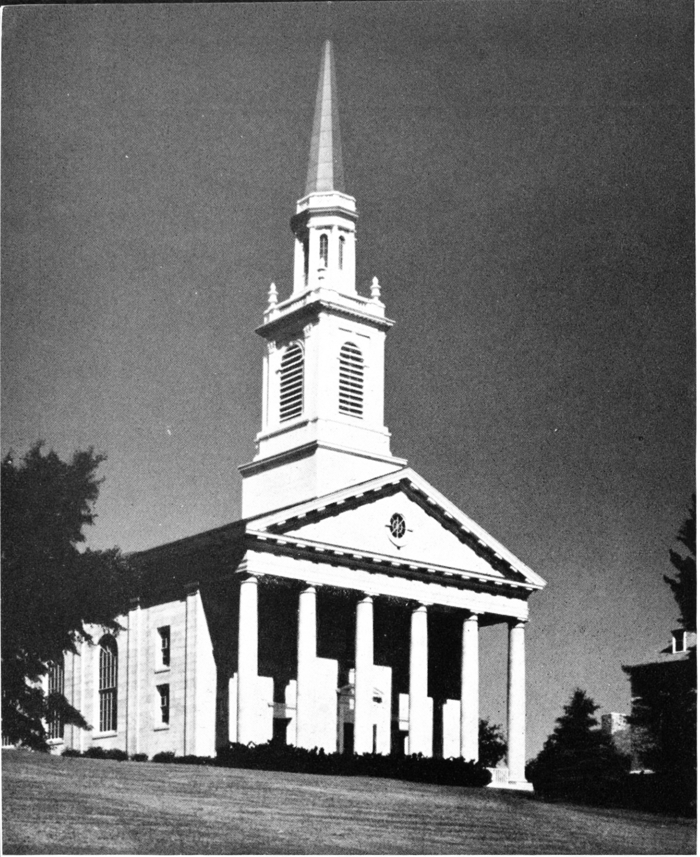
Starr Hall (right) as it appears today. A picture of the same dormitory fifty years ago (below).

The historical importance of the region about Middlebury lies in its proximity to Lake Champlain, the chief inland line of communication with Canada. Again and again the territory was invaded by Indian war parties, by both French and British during the French and Indian Wars, and by British, Tory, and Indian marauders during the Revolution. Middlebury students joined the militia in 1814 to stop the British fleet in the Battle of Lake Champlain.

Middlebury was included in a French royal grant of seigniorie in 1745 and, when the territory became British, was parcelled out in conflicting land patents by the governors of New Hampshire and New York; a private citizen of Massachusetts, who had bought the tract from the Mohawks, had resold it to some 2000 colonists in Connecticut. The long three-sided struggle for possession rights ended only with Vermont's declaration of state independence in 1791.

Situated on the western edge of the town of Middlebury, the college has the advantages of a quiet rural setting, without metropolitan distractions, and at the same time is within easy access of Boston, New York, Albany, and Montreal, with through trains to these cities. Socially, Middlebury is self-dependent; it illustrates democracy in action. Here in the framework of a functioning student-faculty community, the student learns all he can ask of books and test-tubes and his fellow students.





THROUGH THE YEARS, a "Middlebury education" has come to carry with it a very special meaning. Many factors—the college's location in a small community, the guiding philosophy of its founders, the imprint of the idealistic yet practical men and women who have given not only of their wealth but of their influence to this College, the character of the students it has attracted—have combined to make Middlebury synonymous with *a sound, balanced education*.

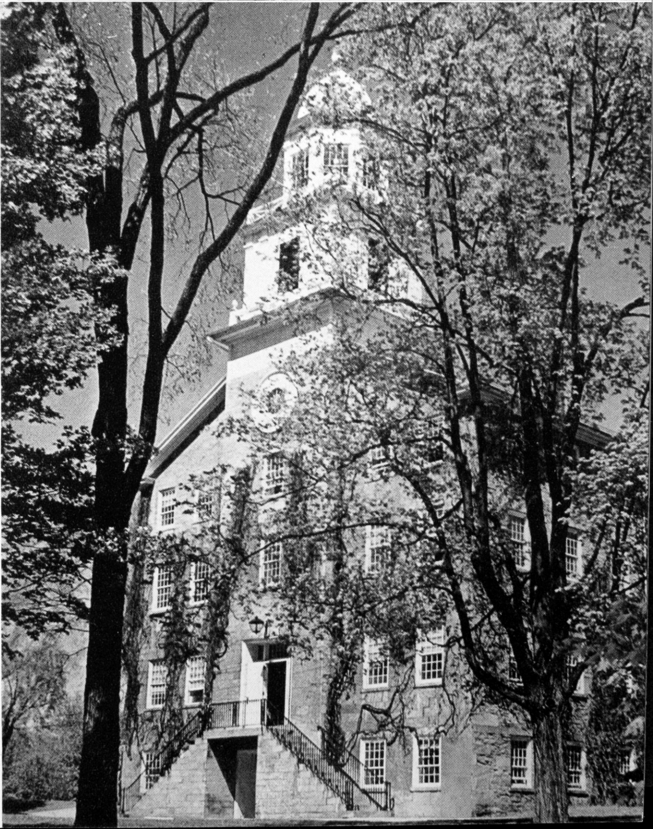
Since Middlebury has facilities for only a fraction of each year's applicants, it exercises the privilege of selecting for its student body those who will profit most by what the College offers, and will contribute most to its welfare. Middlebury seeks young men and women who are intellectually above the average, and who show evidence of sound character and serious motivation. Within these standards, Middlebury students are a cross-section of contemporary youth.

Mead Memorial Chapel

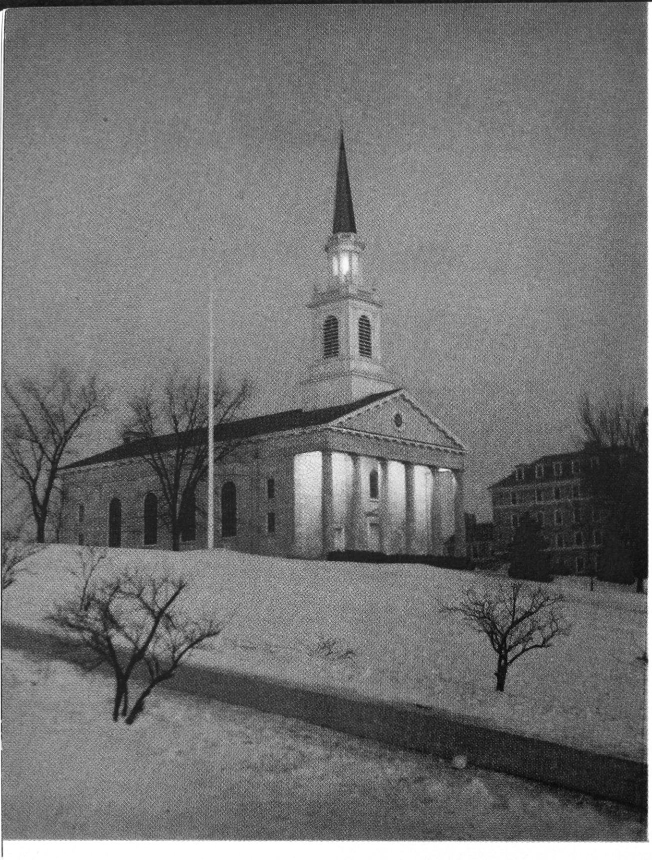
Upper Campus

Hepburn Hall

Old Chapel



Students come to Middlebury from nearly every state in the Union and many foreign countries, from small towns, cities, and farms, and from every economic, social, and religious background. For these young people, Middlebury provides a sane, well-balanced program designed to foster their all-round development—intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual. Everything else in the college career of a student is secondary to the fascinating task of enlarging his intellectual horizons. For this purpose Middlebury provides the finest facilities within its means—classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and above all, a faculty which is outstanding in scholarly achievements and at the same time believes good teaching is a high calling in itself.

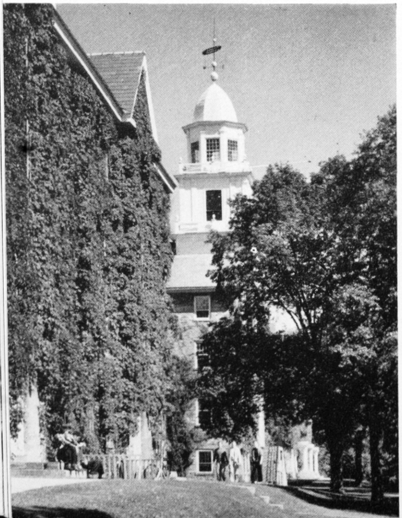


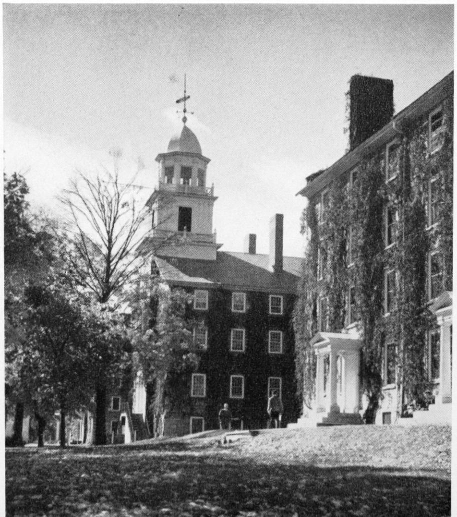
Mead Memorial Chapel,
in the winter moonlight

THE CHAPEL

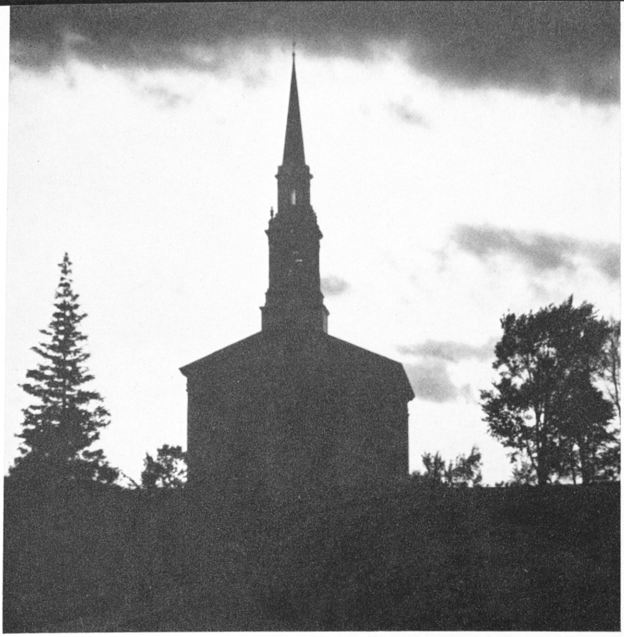
The campus lights, gay-gleaming, one by one
Have twinkled and gone out; but still on high
The stars are left to share their watch alone.
Those silver-armored sentries of the sky
Now faintly glimmer through the steepled pines,
Thy marble pillars, beautiful as truth;
And far above, thy spire in radiance shines,
All halo-lighted with the prayers of youth.
If only thou watch faithfully and well,
Who knows, but into dreaming hearts may creep
Fair thoughts, born of thy splendor and thy spell
Of loveliness? A world's hope lies asleep
Beneath thy solemn vigil, O thou still,
White guardian spirit of the college hill.

—A. Pauline Locklin, '20





Lower Campus



Twilight on the Upper Campus

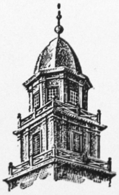
Middlebury believes that the function of a liberal arts college is to produce young men and women who will become responsible citizens and intellectual leaders in their communities. To this end, students at Middlebury are given every opportunity to train the mind, kindle the imagination, build up the body, discipline the emotions and strengthen the will.

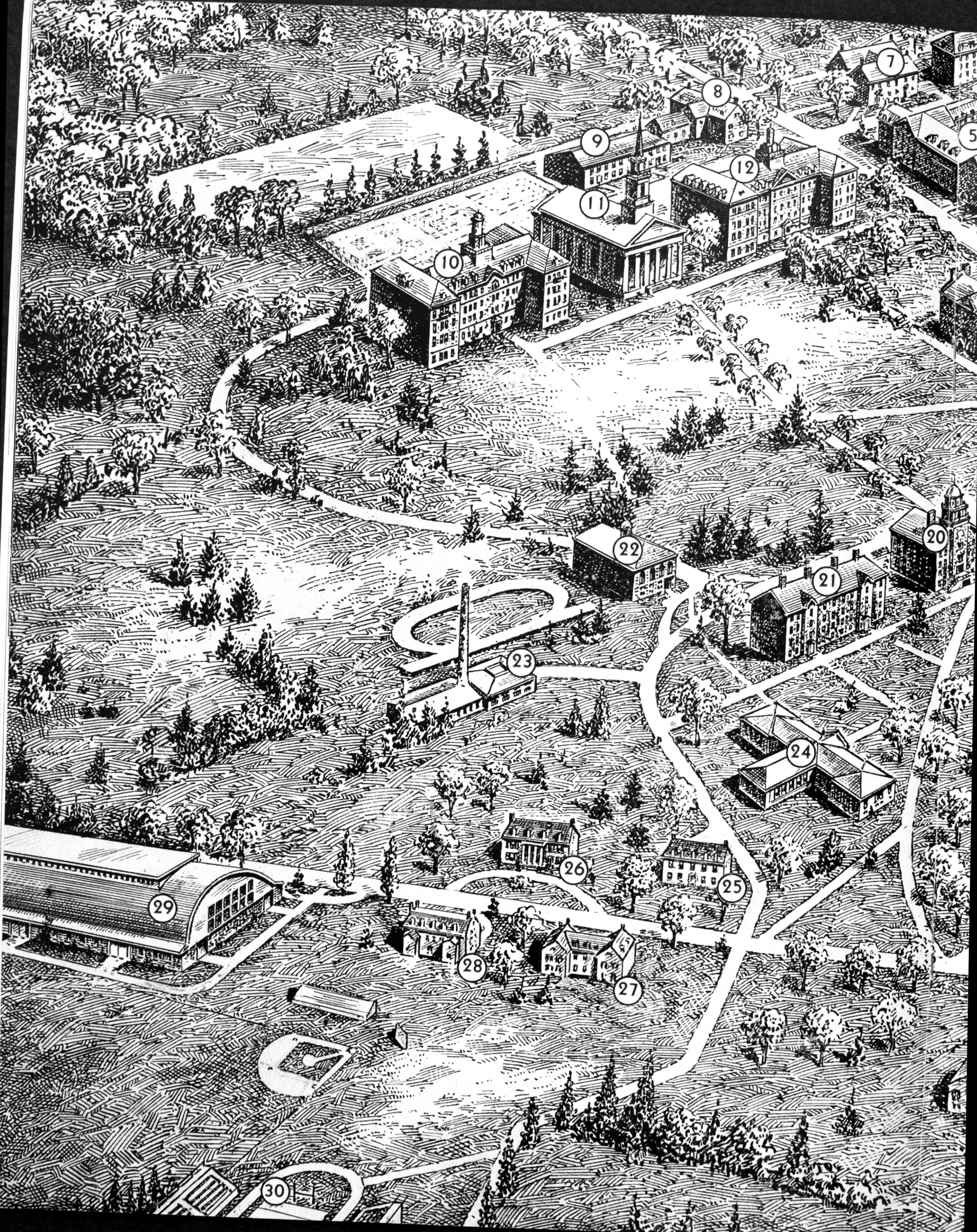
Middlebury introduces the young man and woman to the classroom, laboratory, library, playing field, and promising young men and women of their own age, and bids the individual student to make the most of himself.

The College confidentially expects that the education of its students will develop in them a sturdy individualism of spirit and will fit them for the task of discharging their obligations to their fellowmen.

Munroe Hall

Chemistry Building

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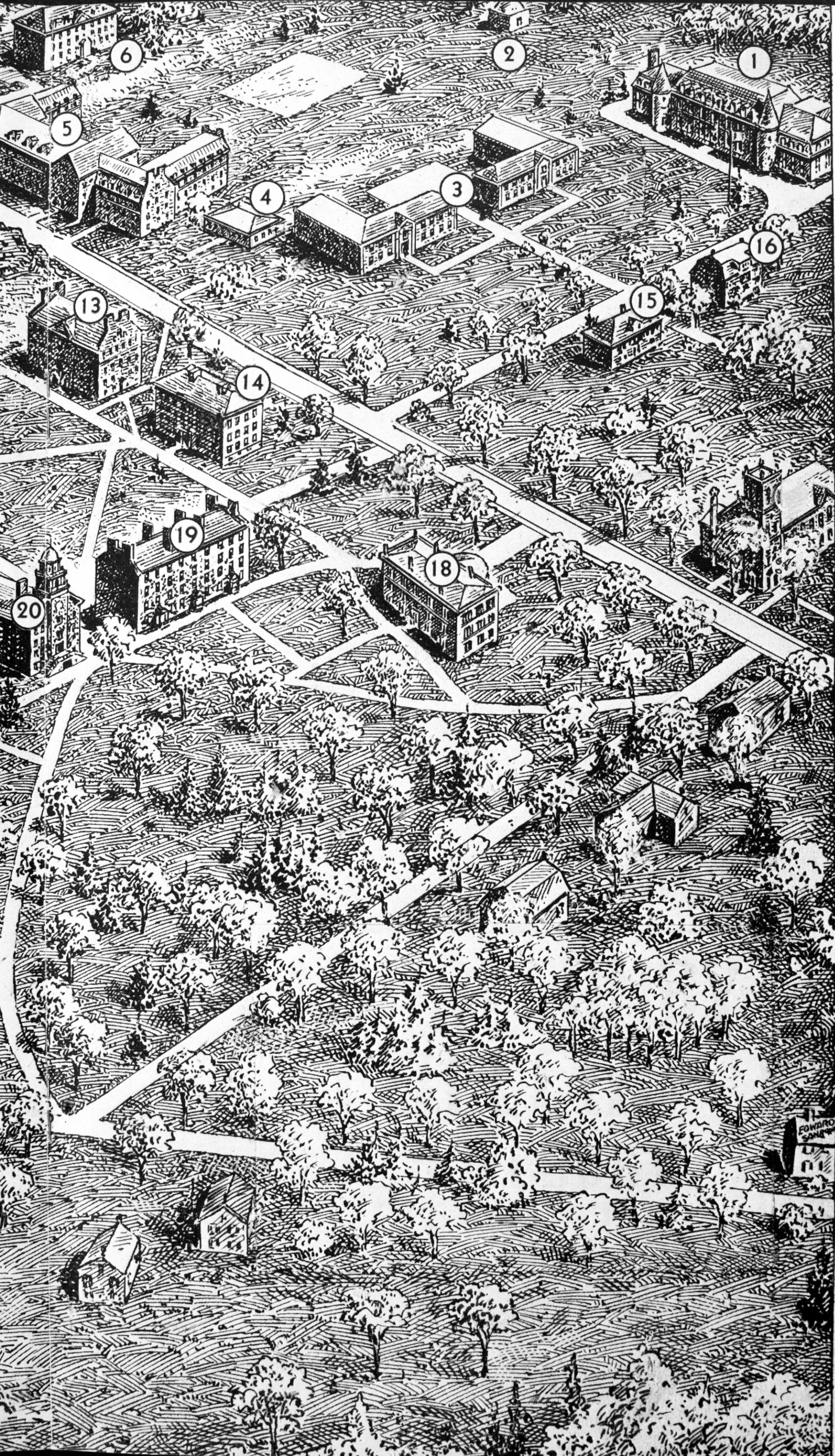
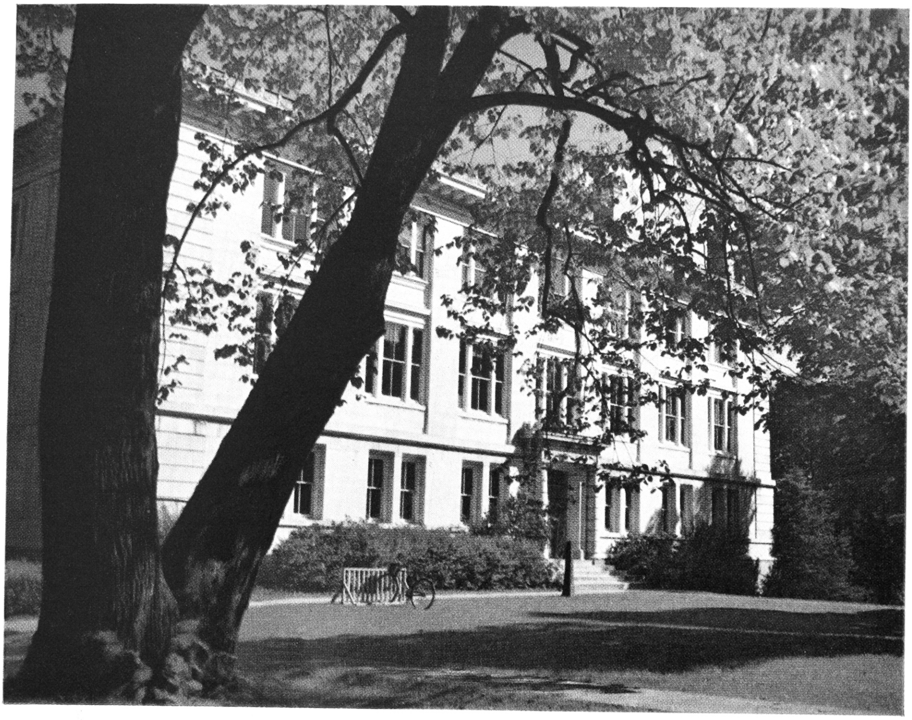
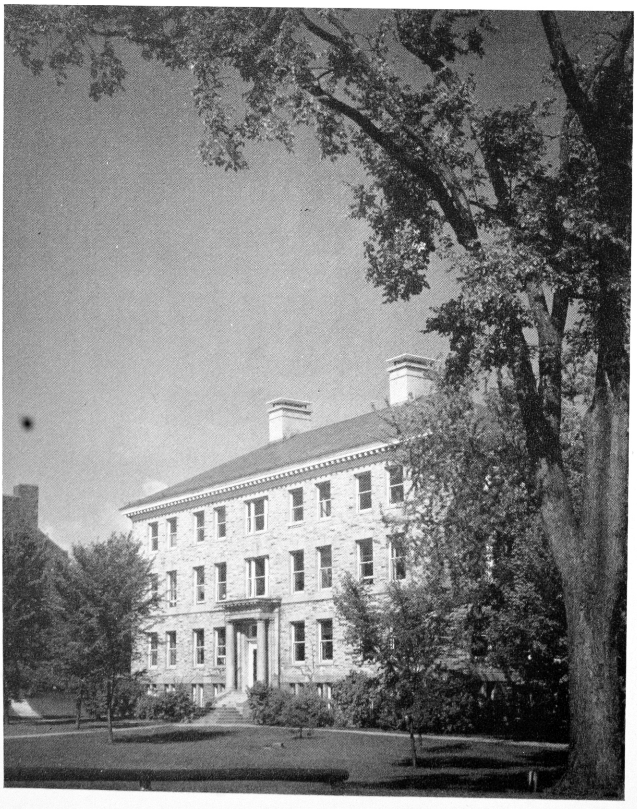


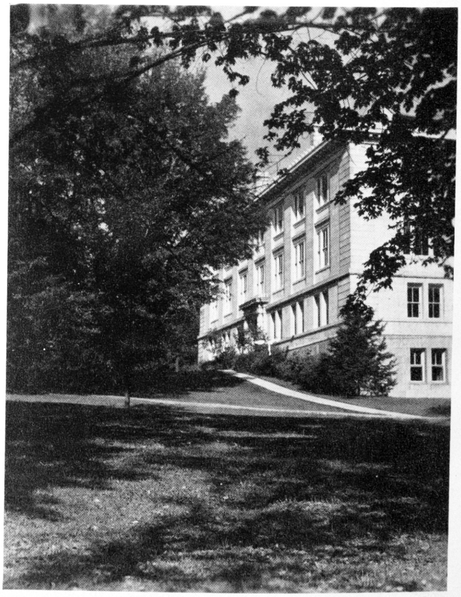
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

1. Le Chateau
2. Observatory
3. New Women's Dormitory Unit (1950)
4. Recitation Hall
5. Forest Hall
6. Pearsons Hall
7. Battell Cottage
8. Hillcrest Hall
9. Student Union
10. Hepburn Hall
11. Mead Memorial Chapel
12. Gifford Hall
13. Munroe Hall
14. Chemistry Building
15. Infirmary
16. Music Studio
18. Warner Science
19. Painter Hall
20. Old Chapel
21. Starr Hall
22. McCullough Gymnasium for Women
23. Heating Plant
24. Egbert Starr Library
25. Delta Kappa Epsilon
26. Delta Upsilon
27. Sigma Phi Epsilon
28. Chi Psi
29. World War II Memorial Field House and Gymnasium
30. Porter Field



Warner Science Building

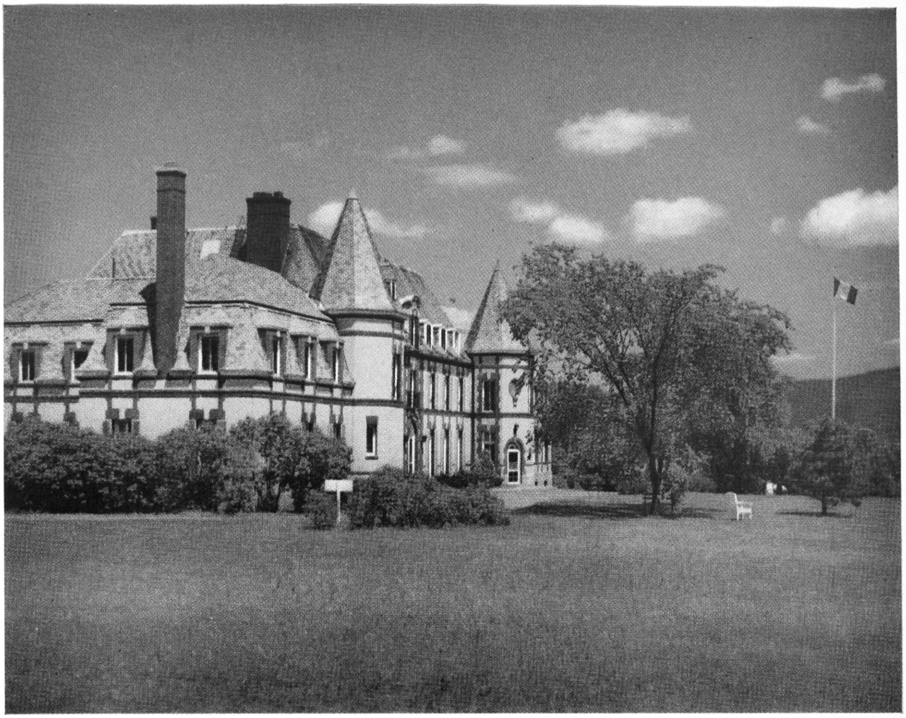


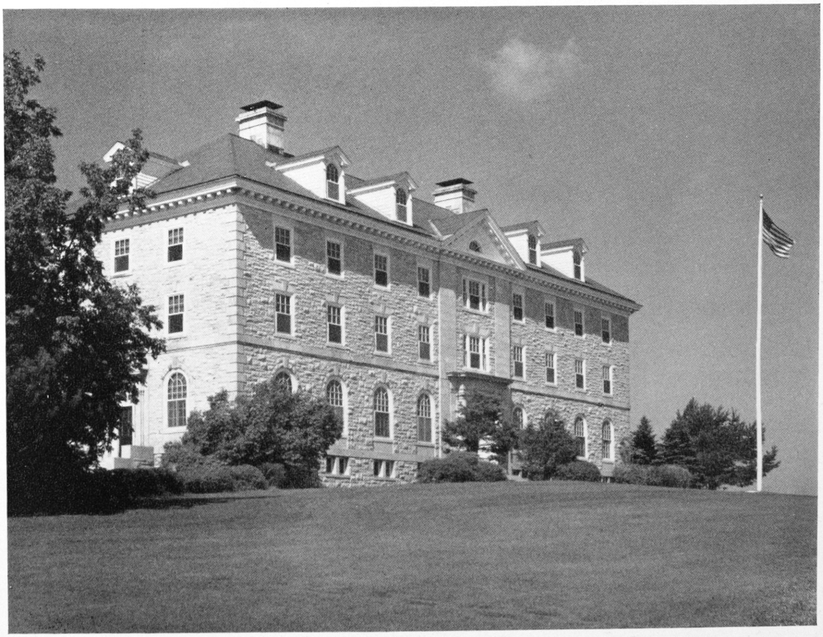


Warner Science from the Lower Campus

Chemistry Building

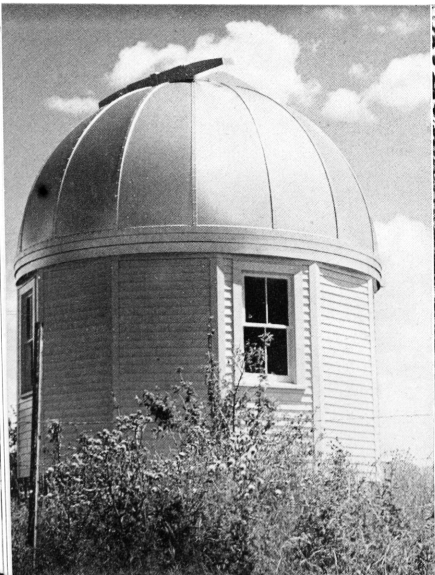
Le Chateau





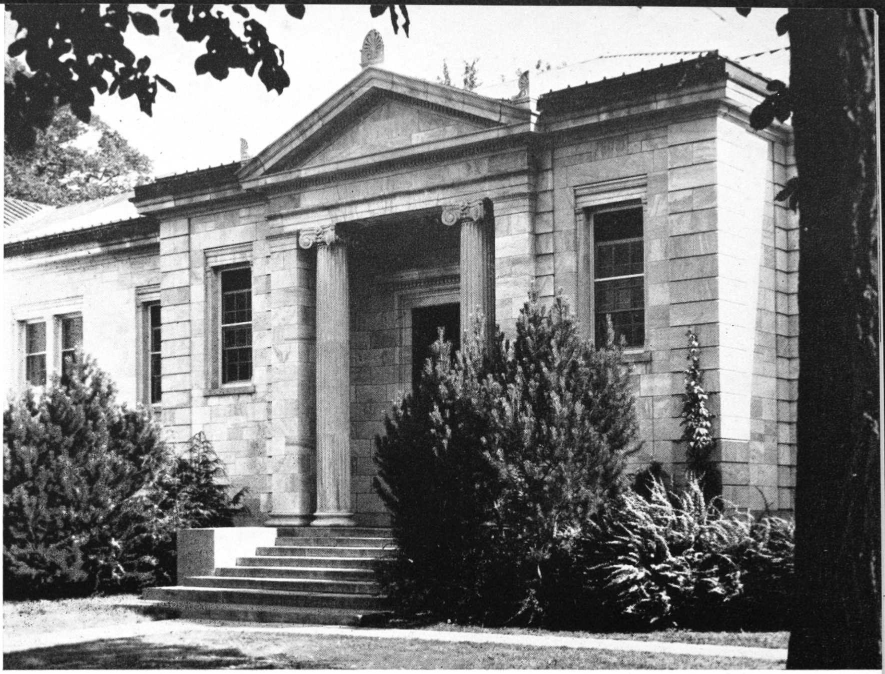
Pearsons Hall

Munroe Hall

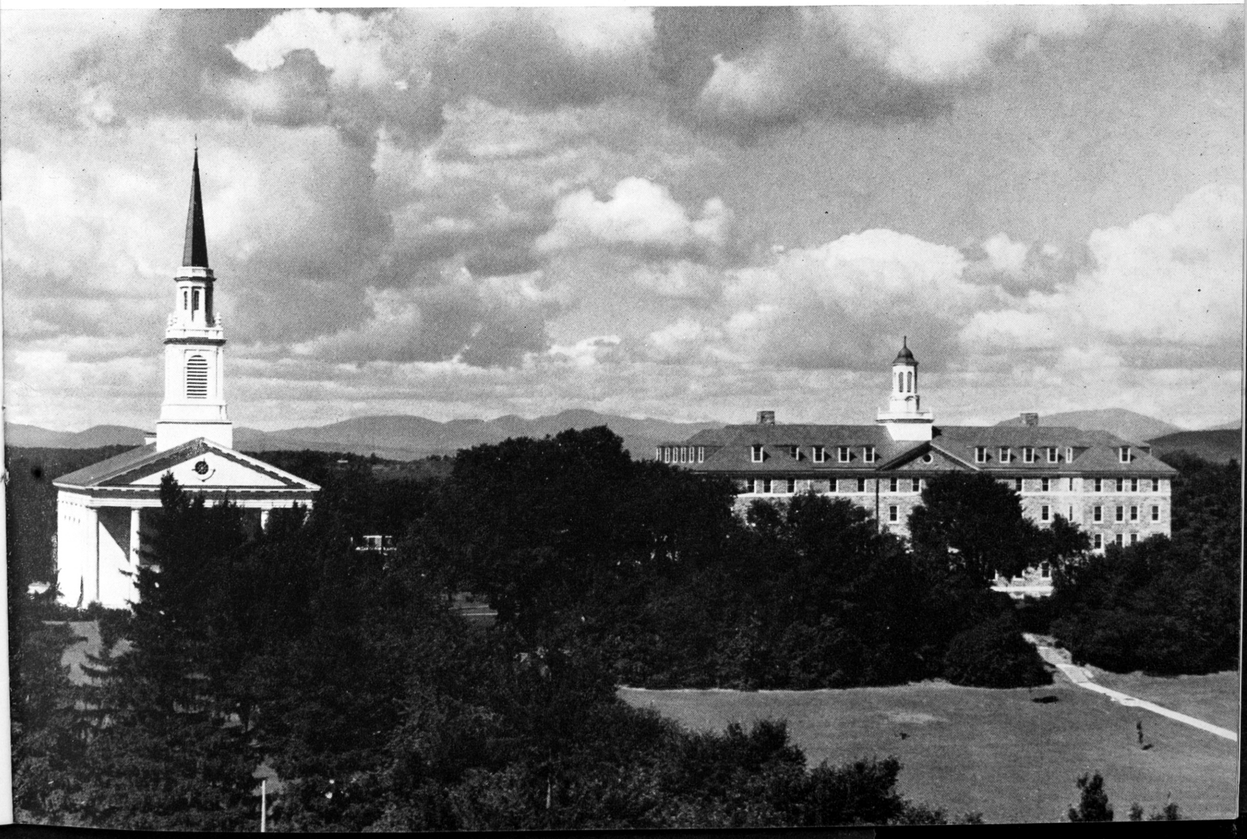


Observatory

Music Studio



Egbert Starr Library



Upper Campus with the Adirondack Mountains in the background

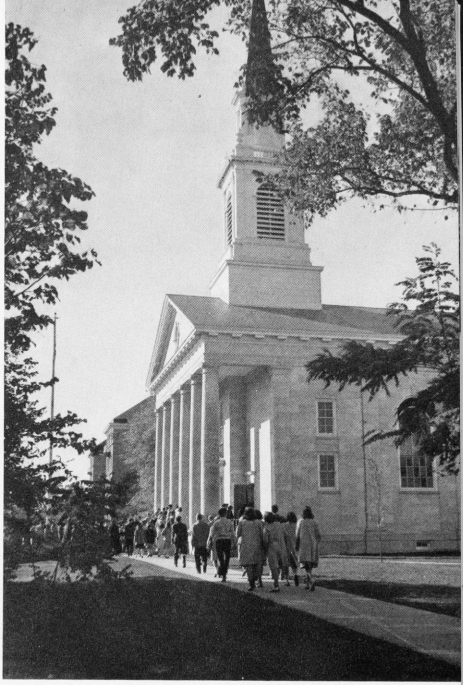
Middlebury is a liberal arts college which aims to prepare students for living as well as for a livelihood. It has no technical, professional, or industrial schools, and does not encourage the enrollment of students who are interested solely in vocational education. Middlebury believes that the lawyer who knows nothing but the law, the technician whose concern is only with his special skills, and the business man who is unmindful of larger economic and social issues, are perhaps prepared for earning a good living but are not necessarily prepared for leading a full life. Every Middlebury student, therefore, is given a broad liberal arts background, with special emphasis on cultural education which will contribute both to a graduate's career and to an understanding of the world in which he lives.

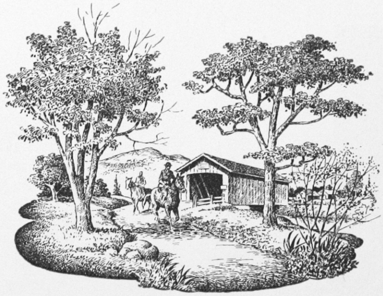
If a student already has an occupational bend when he enters Middlebury, the College is prepared to offer him courses which will further it while he is taking other instruction which will enlarge his horizon and broaden his cultural interests. If he has not analyzed his abilities and aptitudes to the point where he is ready to choose a career, Middlebury will assist with that analysis.

No college can become an employment agency, but it must be sufficiently practical to act as a definite agent in preparing students for life work. The professional or vocational school necessarily prepares students for specialized work in a relatively narrow sphere; the liberal arts college presents many fields of knowledge and provides its students with perspective with which to see, appreciate, and deal with a complexity of problems. It relates rather than segregates; orientates rather than focuses.

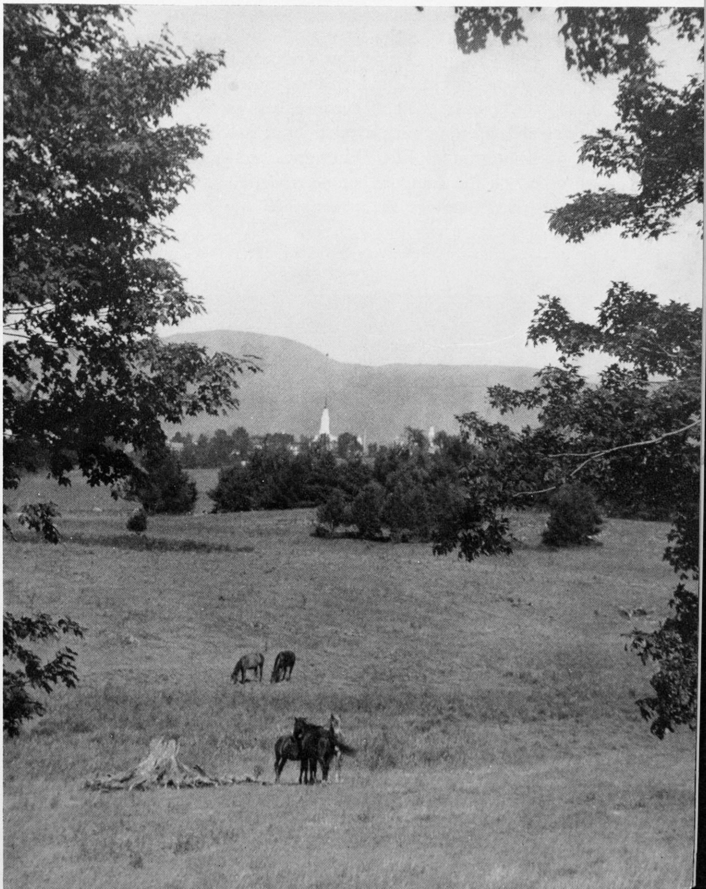
Middlebury's objective now, as in the past, is to promote training in the liberal arts through a three-fold program: intensive work in the field in which the student chooses to concentrate; a general survey of many fields as they relate to the field of concentration; and the study of certain cultural courses which alone can give breadth and depth of meaning to vocational purpose.

Chapel Time





. . . nestled in the heart of picturesque Vermont

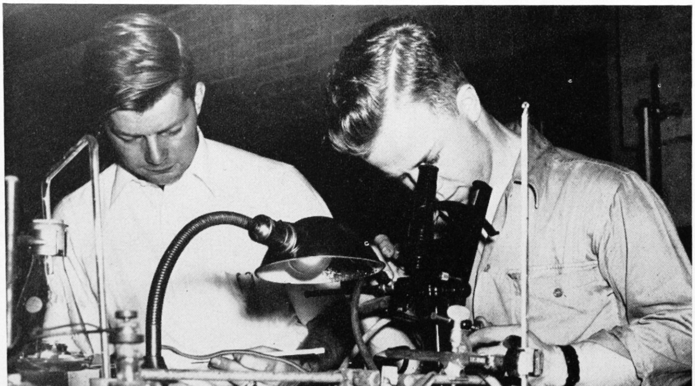


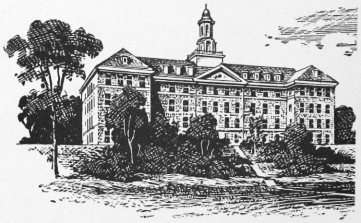
Classroom

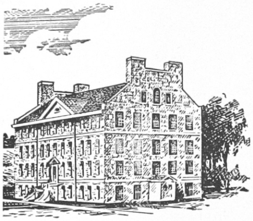
Middlebury students have a wholesome social life. The College dormitories and other living units reproduce the physical and cultural aspects of typical American homes; their occupants govern themselves, making and enforcing such regulations as will insure a sane and happy dormitory life. Fraternities and sororities are welcomed on the campus, but nonaffiliated students are offered living quarters as attractive as the best fraternity houses, and opportunities for a satisfying social life.

Men and women work side by side in classroom and laboratory, take equal part in the social life, and together assume the obligations of maintaining the continuity of traditional activities. Both men and women have their own legislative assembly of elected representatives and have the opportunity to get the full experience of democratic procedures and functions of self-government. The students

Laboratory





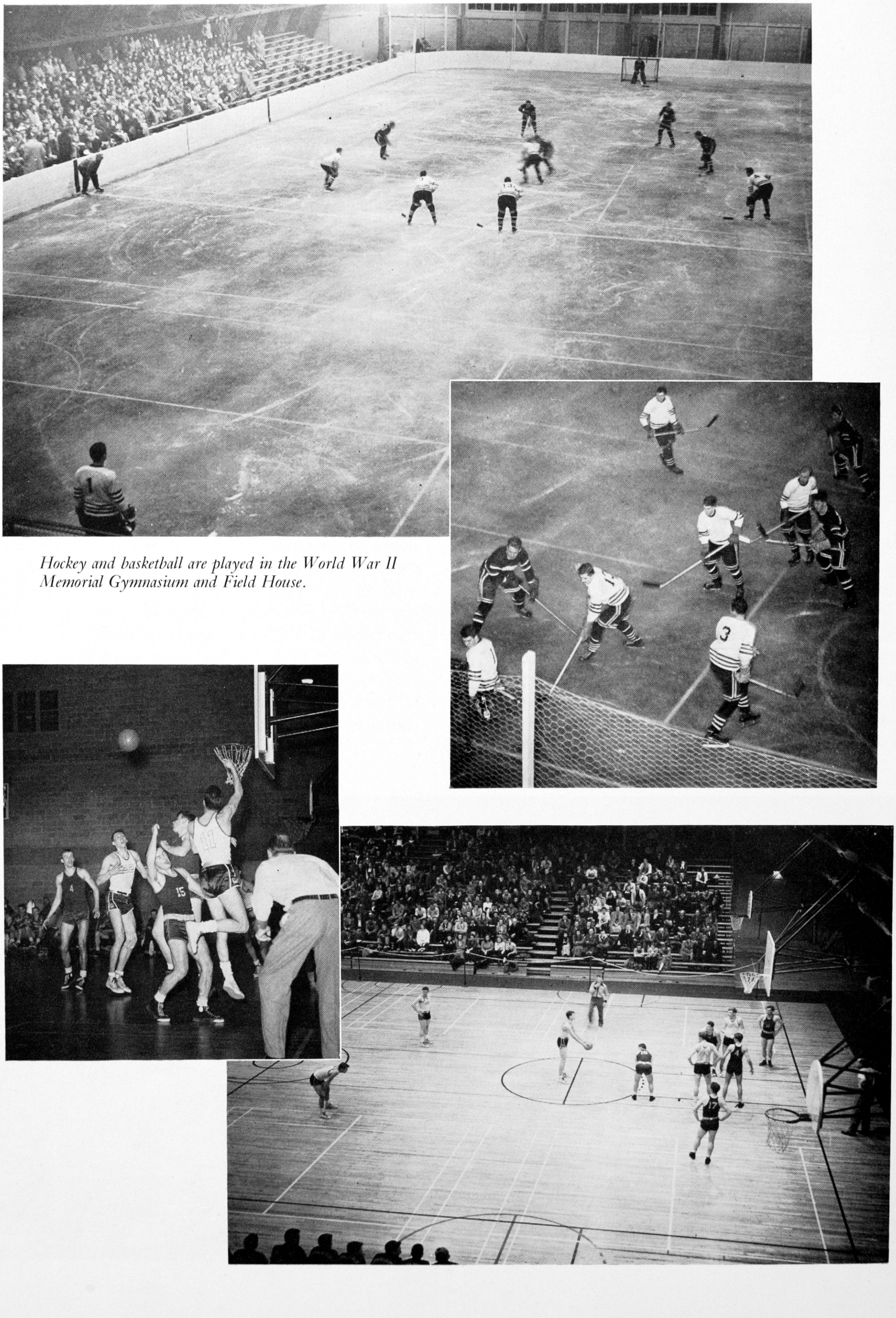


Library

regulate their own campus activities under the unifying supervision of the Student Life Committee on which the Administration and representatives of the men and women have an equal place.

Middlebury students have always found their entertainment in congenial campus activities and in the diversified resources of the immediate countryside. Normal wholesome relations exist between the men and women students. Together they produce, act, and witness worthwhile drama in the College Playhouse, make their own music, choral and symphonic, conduct their own open forums on vital current topics, publish their own weekly newspaper, operate their own campus radio station, and form enduring friendships in the clubs which organize around almost every subject in the curriculum. A series of open forums is climaxed by the annual two-day Middlebury Conference to which national and international authorities bring their considered opinions on topics of vital interest.

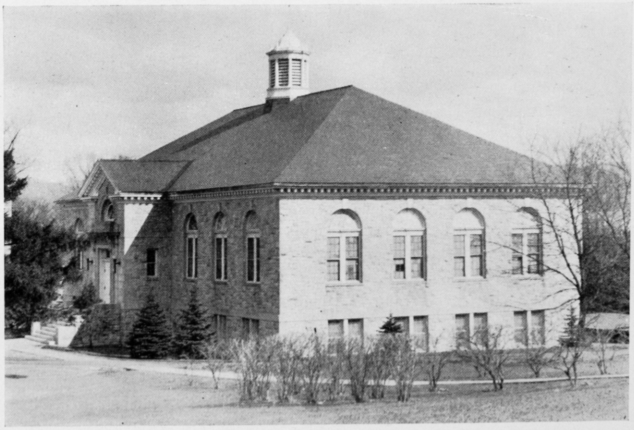
Commencement



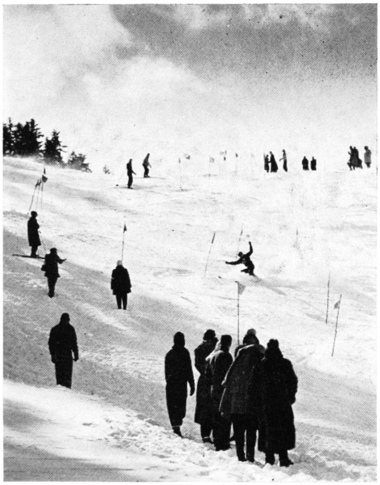
Hockey and basketball are played in the World War II Memorial Gymnasium and Field House.

The spacious World War II Memorial Gymnasium and Field House is one of the best equipped athletic plants in the East.

ORGANIZED ATHLETICS play a large part in the all-round development of the Middlebury student. The men's intercollegiate program includes varsity, freshman, and intramural teams in baseball, basketball, football, golf, hockey, lacrosse, sailing, skiing, tennis and track. The women through the Women's Athletic Association have developed an extensive intramural program. The physical education departments for both men and women offer a number of courses in recreational leadership and professional teacher training. Men use the facilities of the new World War II Memorial Field House and Gymnasium, while the women have their own Gymnasium. Adjacent to the campus is the Middlebury College golf course.

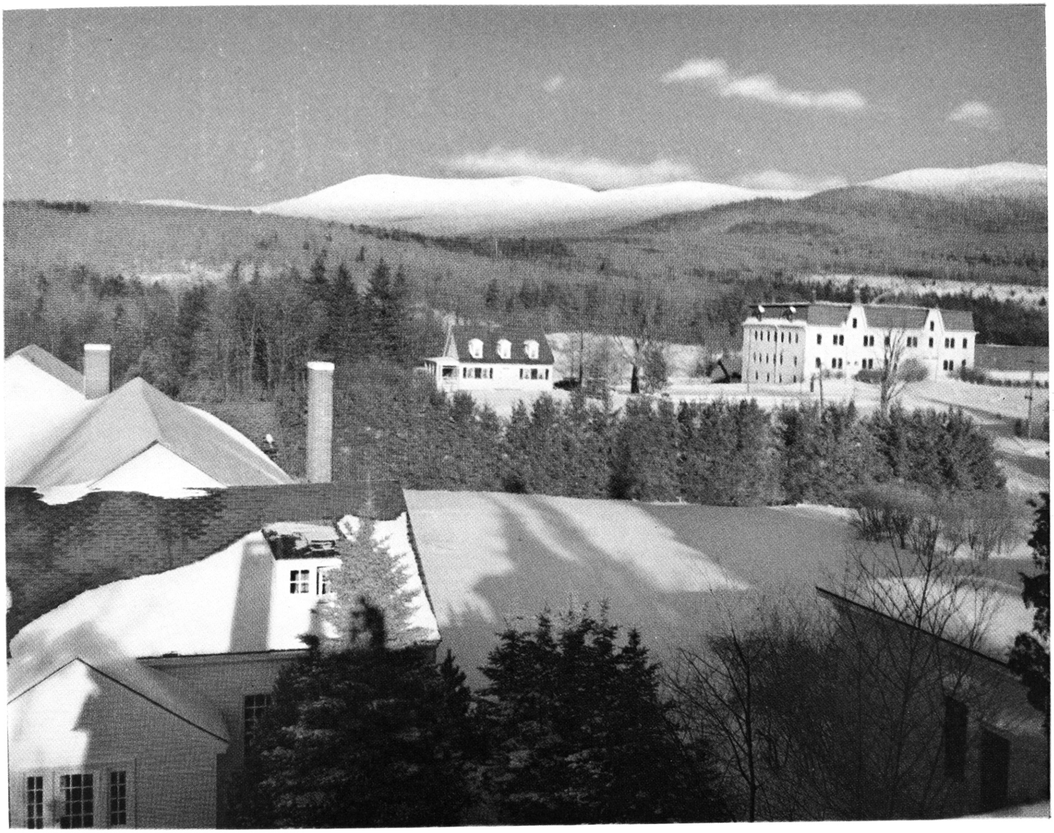


McCullough Gymnasium for Women

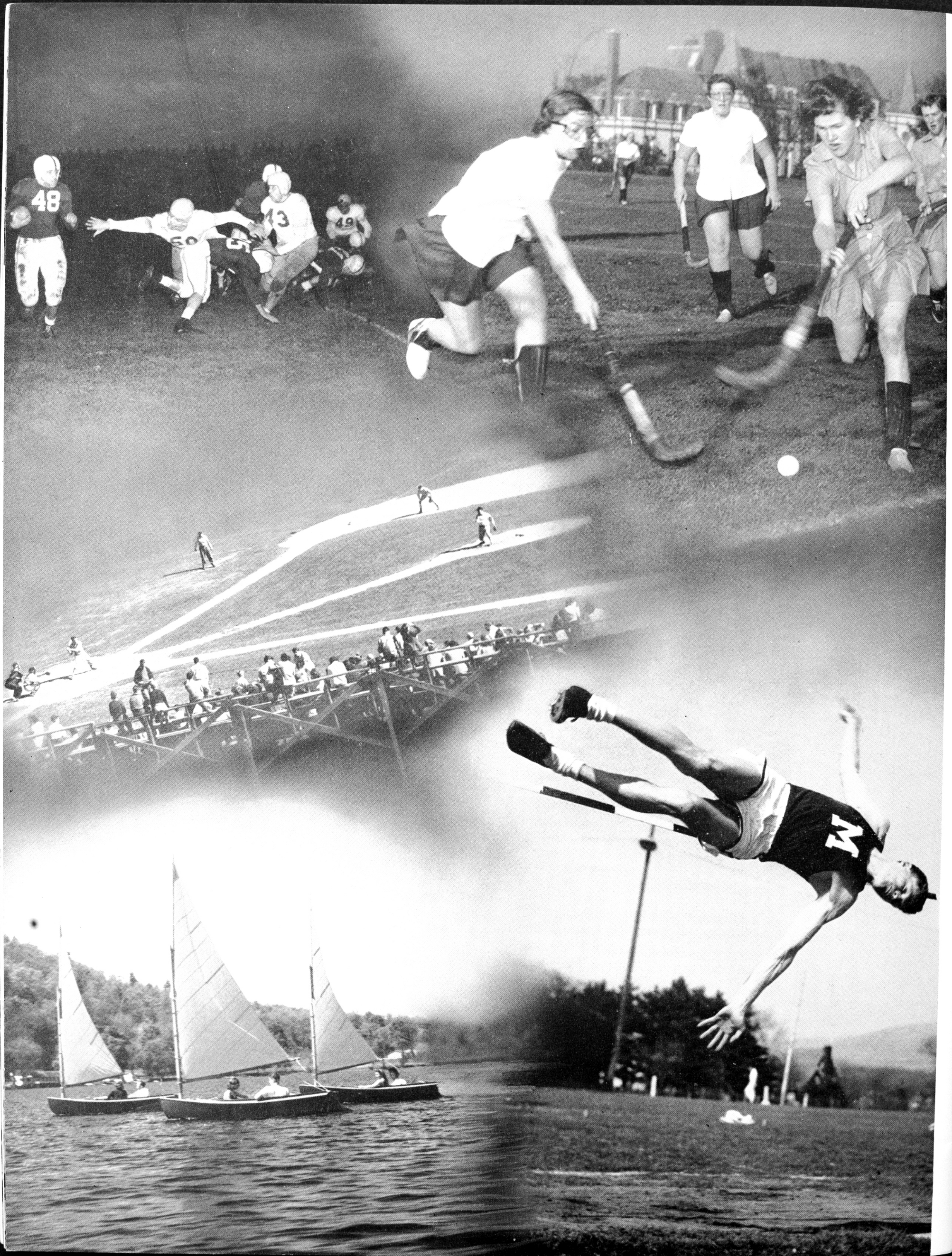


MIDDLEBURY'S CHIEF PLAYGROUND is the out-of-doors. The mountain terrain, with the College's 13,000 acre Mountain Campus so close at hand and, the long Vermont winter have helped to make Middlebury one of the most ski-minded of American colleges.

The Middlebury College Snow Bowl, fifteen miles from the academic campus, includes three ski-tows, slalom and downhill trails, a 50-meter jump, and an eight mile cross-country trail. Middlebury belongs to the Intercollegiate Ski Union association and its teams for years have been among the first in college skiing competition both in the United States and Canada.



Snow-capped Bread Loaf Mountain as seen from the roof of one of the buildings of Middlebury's Mountain Campus, site of the College's Bread Loaf School of English and Writers' Conference and a short distance from the Middlebury Snow Bowl.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I.S.U. MEET
WINTER CARNIVAL
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE, VT.
FEB. 23-25
MIDDLEBU
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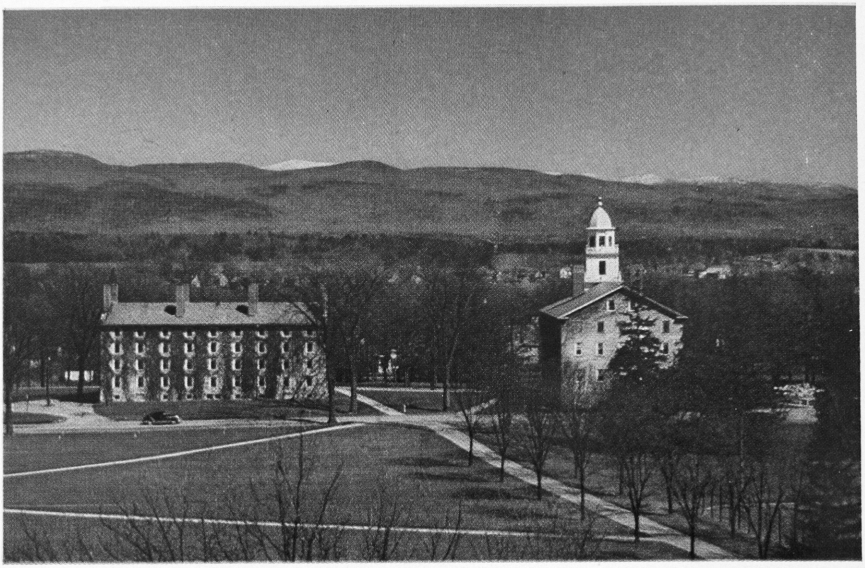
EDGAR A. MOWRER
HOUSTON PETERSON
R. E. FLANDERS
DAVID THOMSON



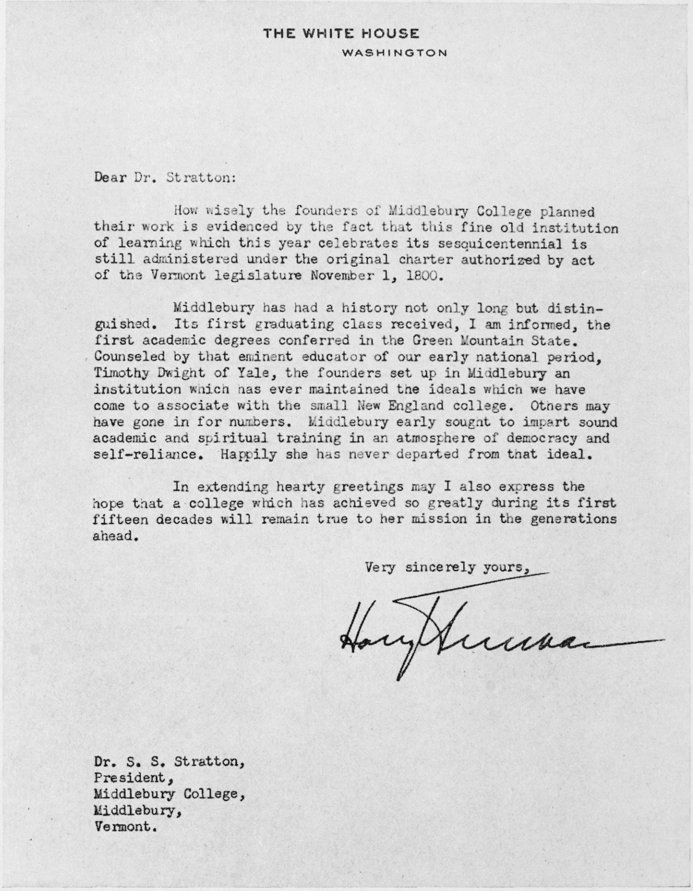
The Lower Campus with the Green Mountains in the background

Tomorrow, as yesterday and one hundred and fifty years ago, Middlebury College will strive to impart to its students an enduring zest for intellectual tasks, a firm desire to be intelligent and honest in the evaluation of themselves, of other people and of philosophies of life. A realization of the dignity of the individual, and the importance of jealously guarding their liberty and freedom.

Middlebury College, set high on a hill looking both ways to the mountains, is dedicated to the task of preserving a cultural heritage based on such unchanging values.

INVITATION

To the many Alumni, Alumnae and friends of Middlebury College who have not been able to visit the campus for years, to those who saw it no more than a month ago, this publication is an invitation to come back again to the campus—to visit again the scenes of yesterday, to see the progress, the promise of today.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Dr. Stratton:

How wisely the founders of Middlebury College planned their work is evidenced by the fact that this fine old institution of learning which this year celebrates its sesquicentennial is still administered under the original charter authorized by act of the Vermont legislature November 1, 1800.

Middlebury has had a history not only long but distinguished. Its first graduating class received, I am informed, the first academic degrees conferred in the Green Mountain State. Counseled by that eminent educator of our early national period, Timothy Dwight of Yale, the founders set up in Middlebury an institution which has ever maintained the ideals which we have come to associate with the small New England college. Others may have gone in for numbers. Middlebury early sought to impart sound academic and spiritual training in an atmosphere of democracy and self-reliance. Happily she has never departed from that ideal.

In extending hearty greetings may I also express the hope that a college which has achieved so greatly during its first fifteen decades will remain true to her mission in the generations ahead.

Very sincerely yours,

Harry Truman

Dr. S. S. Stratton,
President,
Middlebury College,
Middlebury,
Vermont.

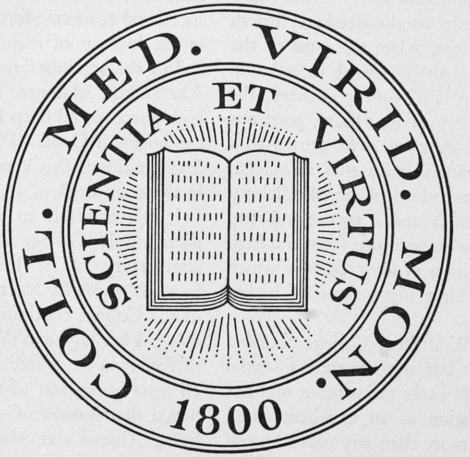
Acknowledgments

Color photography by Warren Case, New England Color Studio, Middlebury, Vermont. Other pictures by Mr. Case include: Trustees, p. 8; upper campus, p. 12; Old Chapel, p. 13; Chemistry Building, p. 18; Pearsons, p. 19; classroom, Library, commencement, pp. 24, 25; Memorial exterior and interior views, pp. 26, 27; Snow Bowl, p. 28. Other photos by College Publicity Dept.

The use of color photography in this sesquicentennial issue of the NEWS LETTER was made possible by the loan of the engravings by The Lane Press, Burlington, Vermont.

Supplement to The News Letter

Volume xxv September 1950 No. 1



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

MIDDLEBURY VERMONT

The President's Page

On September twenty-nine and thirty Middlebury College will celebrate its one-hundred and fiftieth anniversary. Founded in 1800, when the guns of the American Revolution had hardly ceased to echo in the hills of what was then still pioneer country, the College, by wise stewardship of its affairs, generous support of its Alumni and Alumnae, has grown to a position of educational leadership in this sesquicentennial year of 1950. The members of the Middlebury family enjoy a maximum of favorable repute and reap educational values of major importance from the high quality and distinctive position of their College which is one of the Nation's oldest institutions of higher learning.

It is not by chance that Middlebury College, founded with the highest of ideals but with modest financial resources, has overcome its early vicissitudes and has earned its national reputation as an excellent small college. Colleges perhaps more than any other human institutions are the products of the hopes and efforts of men. Middlebury College in the year nineteen hundred and fifty is not the inevitable outcome of the tides of destiny, nor of the workings of some mysterious social and economic forces. The history of Middlebury is the history of men and women—of the faculties and of the administrations, of the Trustees and of the Alumni and Alumnae. It is these men and women of high purpose and deep loyalties who have perpetuated the hopes of Gamaliel Painter and his associates who first petitioned the Vermont Legislature for a Charter in the year 1798.

It is reasonable to prophesy that in the year two thousand the College will celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of its founding if tomorrow, as one-hundred and fifty years ago, the cherished objective of the College continues to be the preservation of our cultural heritage and the perpetuation of the education of free men for a free society. The most relentless of all tests is the test of time. It is a never-ending test; hence the destiny of the College rests with all our living Alumni and Alumnae.

Samuel S. Stratton

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL PROGRAM

Friday, September 29, 1950

MORNING:

11:30 A.M.	Anniversary Service	First Congregational Church

AFTERNOON:

1:00 P.M.	Registration of Delegates	Middlebury Inn
4:00–5:30 P.M.	President's Reception *During the reception there will be a Twilight Musicale in Mead Memorial Chapel from five to five-thirty p.m.*	Forest Hall

EVENING:

6:45 P.M.	Dinner for Delegates	Forest Hall
8:30 P.M.	Symposium: "*The Liberal Arts College—Its Heritage and Prospects*"	Memorial Field House

* * *

Saturday, September 30, 1950

MORNING:

10:00 A.M.	Convocation with Academic Procession and Conferring of Honorary Degrees	Memorial Field House

AFTERNOON:

12:15 P.M.	Homecoming Luncheon	Memorial Field House

The Ted Long Jr. Memorial Field will be dedicated at 9:00 A.M., Saturday. It is adjacent to the Memorial Field House.

The following special exhibits will be open to the delegates and visitors during the Sesquicentennial Weekend:

(1) Exhibition of Middleburiana and Paintings by Vermont Artists, Main and Browsing Rooms, Egbert Starr Library; and

(2) Display, 150 Books by 150 Middlebury Men and Women, Main Floor, Library

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

First Congregational Church

Friday, 11:30 A.M.

ORGAN PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Dr. John M. Thomas
President of Middlebury College
(1908–1921)

SCRIPTURE

Dr. Stephen A. Freeman
Vice-President of Middlebury College

CHOIR

"Praise" . . . . Alec Rowley
Middlebury College Choir

ADDRESS

Dr. Samuel S. Stratton
President of Middlebury College

CHOIR

"Once to ev'ry man and nation"
Middlebury College Choir

BENEDICTION

Reverend Walker T. Hawley
Pastor, First Congregational Church

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Organist: Mrs. Prudence F. Bussey
Director of College Choir: Mr. H. Ward Bedford

THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE
ITS HERITAGE AND PROSPECTS

Memorial Field House

Friday, 8:30 P.M.

Dr. Samuel S. Stratton
President of Middlebury College, Presiding

Symposium

I

"The Tradition of the Liberal Arts College"
Dr. Charles Seymour
President Emeritus, Yale University

II

"Contemporary Trends in Liberal Education"
Dr. Oliver C. Carmichael
President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

III

"Domestic Virtues and the Liberal Arts"
Mrs. Mildred McAfee Horton
Former President, Wellesley College

IV

"The Outlook for the Independent College"
Dr. Henry M. Wriston
President, Brown University

THE CONVOCATION

Memorial Field House
Saturday, 10:00 A.M.

PROCESSIONAL

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

(The audience will please remain standing until the Invocation has been pronounced)

INVOCATION

Chaplain Roland E. Johnson

POEM

"The Idea and the Hour"
Arthur Wallace Peach
Class of '09

ADDRESS

"Let Freedom Ring"
Philip C. Jessup
United States Ambassador-at-Large

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES

Samuel S. Stratton, Ph.D., LL.D.
President of the College

THE ALMA MATER

College Choir

BENEDICTION

Dr. John M. Thomas

RECESSIONAL

(The audience is requested to remain seated during the Recessional)

The Sesquicentennial Poem

The Idea and the Hour

By Arthur Wallace Peach, '09

I

Consider, please, the evening scene of long ago:
The Queen walks in her garden in the dusk
Where nightingales are singing, maddening—so goes the line—
The marsh with Yesterday—and then
A hoarse word the King is not!

In every dawn and dusk since time began,
Since what was once the Thing became a Man
That voice has spoken; the bright mail
The Persian arrow slit, the unseen death
By evening breezes blown—they are the same,
Call them what you will with any name;
And all your dreams with which you cushion fate
Lead now, as then, to dusks by men forgot
And a hoarse cry a King is not!

II

There is another echo of that evening scene
By you unheard perhaps: the waves, remember,
Tumbled to and fro the helmets of the fallen;
There the King you mention heard, rolling far along the shore,
Voices of old and voices of days to be—
Symbol and prophecy!

III

"Voices of days to be?"—Voices that no man hears,
Forever fading as each century nears
Across the mountains of men's hopes, the seas of their desires,
The meadows where no rain drop falls and every wind blows loudly—
A dream that ends as I have said before—
A hoarse voice calling through a dusk once more!
The dreams men dream may serve their little day
That ends in sunset and a world grown gray;
But they have had the day—let that suffice.
Why use a dream to fend a fact?
Ah, well, dream on.

Dr. Peach is the author of "The Hill Trails," "Selections from Thomas Paine," "Four Plays by Royall Tyler," "The Country Rod and Gun Book," and many poems and articles in current periodicals. He is a well-known lecturer and for thirty-six years was head of the English Department at Norwich University before retiring last June to accept the directorship of the Vermont Historical Society. He served as chairman of the committee which founded and designed the *News Letter* twenty-five years ago.

IV

"Seize the moment," then, would you suggest
With Omar, Horace, and the rest?
Life has no meanings reason's lantern finds,
And gods to all appeals turn marble ears.
Hostile the universe, but a moment yields
Its joy, and of the sum is life?

V

Why quote Aristippus? The creed he fashioned died
Beneath a sword as all such creeds have died.
Accept the fact: the harsh day's will deploys
Long distances between our joys;
The brimming cup, refilled, grows stale;
The flaming colors, seen too often, pale;
Who seeks escape from hurt must seek in vain;
The final name for joy is pain—
A platitude no age has learned—at least, not ours.
I weary of these dusty fingers poking
Forever in the ruins of the past as if for gems—
Ideas that gathered from a dusty nook
May light a world that reason has forsook
And do it, too, by hook or crook.

VI

The battle axe that cleaves a stubborn skull
Silences all argument; the swift knife at the throat
Quiets the urgent voice; no idea's slender lance
Can still the cannon's blast; and yet—
Who was the Grecian girl who by the evening sea,
In the purple dusk, awaited her fisherman lover?
The love songs that she wrote like fragrance drifting far
Sweeten our day across two thousand years,
Outlasting all their laughter, all their tears.

VII

Sappho! 610 B.C. Poems
Which still, like sparkles of Greek fire,
Burn on through Time, and ne'er expire.

VIII

A love song outlasts the Caesars—quaint, is it not?
Suppose some genius of the slide rule sought
The answer; would he find it fractioned there?
As well around a thrush's throat enclose
The caliper to measure song. Nay, from depths
Unfathomed rose love's shining wings; and faith like love
And all man's decent dreams are ages old
Wrought by ages numberless from ageless ores;
The aeons gone that shaped man's pig-iron formed man's love;
The iron will vanish, but the love lives on.

IX

I question that, but let the answer pass.
Will you deny? Can you explain this much?
The web of life is permanent; though the weft
Reveal designs that change with every age,
The web remains; reverse the tapestry
And there you see wars and wars pictured endlessly.
The warrior, the teacher, and the priest,
The scientist, and he who harvests where the toilers sow—
Each has his age, and who fore'er returns?
Just one—the warrior. Man was born in battle; there he dies.
He must face the fact though wish it otherwise.

X

Your rigid fact is true, but from all facts,
The prison of his days, he does escape,
Seeking through guarded walls a secret path—
The path of song, of art, of search for truth,
Of kindly deeds, of toil that builds from stones
The hillsides give cathedrals of tomorrow;
So does the world escape. Your tapestry betrays the fact
For in the weft the changing scenes recall the simple truth—
Some men must die that something greater
Than man may live; and he who dies, if knowing that,
On battlefield, on peak, in laboratory, or the street,
Wherever brave men hear the summons clear,
Would not, I venture, have it otherwise.

XI

The question holds the answer, does it not?
The painting that a savage finger traced
In some dim paleolithic cave retains this hour
The fleeting imprint of a soul, and wistfully
Even there we hear its cry:
"Stay longer, thou art beautiful!"
From sculptured stone, the carven tusk, the clay, the brass,
From all the records of the past the voices speak;
Each has its soul and lives.
If from that cave our paleolithic friend surged out
To face a tiger, saber-toothed, and die
For one he loved, we understand the meaning
Of his death, though now, no more, save in our warring years,
The jungle twilight shrouds our world.

XII

A fragment of the truth is not the truth, my friend.
For every thought recorded on your stone,
The tusk, the clay, the temple's arch, the tower,
A thousand perished; so has it been, so shall it be.
Imperfect then, imperfect now, and in the future so.

Of all the records, how much now survives?
Of treasure vast and dreams that men have dreamed?
These—the shattered temple and the broken stone,
These alone. We have the present and its challenge now;
Old answers will not tell us when or how.
New questions rise; old answers tend to lies.
And I submit—to change the figure too—let's cut the anchor rope,
And lift new sails wide to the winds of hope!

XIII

Not I. Imperfect though it be, the record shows
Its triumph and its promise too, methinks.
The soul of man is made of moments beautiful,
Too beautiful for him to cast away, of thoughts
Too noble for a moment's gleam, of deeds
Too great to be forgotten, of ideas waiting
For their certain hour. They live
Because we keep them in our hearts; and with them
Shape a world to be.

XIV

All the darkness in the world cannot put out, I'm told,
The light of one small candle. I agree,
But in your shaping of the world do not forget
You speak for one small segment of our times
And not for other cultures, other climes;
Vast hosts of men look on your souls' bright candles
Sneeringly.

XV

But we will keep the candles lit, remembering this—
The lasting records stand for passing man to read:
From that dim cave's crude painting rose
The art of Michael Angelo; a reed plucked from a river's brink
Sings through the symphony of a thousand strings;
The healing herb a savage hand once laid
On suffering lives in the magic of the surgeon's touch;
The faith that sought by devious paths and long
A meaning in dark mysteries has found it now
In Him who notes the sparrow's fall,
And shares with men their gray Gethsemanees—
But why go on? Magnificent man's journey was
From cave and marsh, the mystery of ancient earth;
Magnificent it is to be—man's journey from
His jungle home, long, long ago, to this day when once more
His noblest hour may bring earth's noblest dawn.
Remember, too, the essence of it all:
Mightier than armies—Hugo echoed Plato's thought—
And I translate it freely—*is an idea when*
Its hour arrives! Before its hour guarding hands must keep
Above it faithful watch, and slumber not nor sleep.

XVI

Across the quiet of the college yard
Through ivied silence to the firelit room
The tower chimes spoke of the closing day.
The three arose with goodnights said,
But one turned at the door:
"What was the grove where Plato taught?"
He asked.

And one replied with smiling eyes
And meaning in his voice:
"The grove was *Academus*—
And don't forget:
Who walks with him will see
The Idea rising, though dimly seen of men,
To its crowning Hour!"

DELEGATES

HARVARD UNIVERSITY	Francis Millet Rogers, *Dean of Graduate School of Arts & Sciences*	1636
YALE UNIVERSITY	Charles Seymour, *President-Emeritus*	1701
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY	Christian Gauss, *Dean of the College-Emeritus*	1746
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	Richard Herpers, *Secretary of the University*	1754
BROWN UNIVERSITY	Henry Merritt Wriston, *President*	1764
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY	Robert C. Clothier, *President*	1766
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE	John Sloan Dickey, *President*	1769
DICKINSON COLLEGE	William W. Edel, *President*	1773
FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE	George Albert Moore, *Alumnus*	1787
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT	William S. Carlson, *President*	1791
WILLIAMS COLLEGE	James Phinney Baxter, 3rd, *President*	1793
BOWDOIN COLLEGE	Kenneth C. M. Sills, *President*	1794
UNION COLLEGE	Carter Davidson, *President*	1795
OHIO UNIVERSITY	John C. Baker, *President*	1804
HAMILTON COLLEGE	Winton Tolles, *President*	1812
COLBY COLLEGE	Julius Seelye Bixler, *President*	1813
NORWICH UNIVERSITY	Maj. Gen. E. N. Harmon, *President*	1819
AMHERST COLLEGE	C. Scott Porter, *Dean*	1821
McGILL UNIVERSITY	F. J. M. Sichel, *Alumnus*	1821
TRINITY COLLEGE (Conn.)	Arthur H. Hughes, *Dean*	1823
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE	Ralph Cooper Hutchison, *President*	1826
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	H. O. Voorhis, *Vice Chancellor*	1831
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	Victor L. Butterfield, *President*	1831
HAVERFORD COLLEGE	Wallace M. Scudder, *Alumnus*	1833
OBERLIN COLLEGE	Dr. Ethelbert V. Grabill, *Alumnus*	1833

DELEGATES

(*continued*)

WHEATON COLLEGE 1834
A. Howard Meneely, *President*

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE 1837
Roswell G. Ham, *President*

BOSTON UNIVERSITY 1839
Daniel L. Marsh, *President*

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO 1846
Thomas R. McConnell, *Chancellor*

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE 1848
Levering Tyson, *President*

RIPON COLLEGE 1851
Clark G. Kuebler, *President*

TUFTS COLLEGE 1852
Leonard Carmichael, *President*

THE ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY 1856
Eugene G. Bewkes, *President*

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY 1861
James R. Killian, Jr., *President*

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE 1864
John W. Nason, *President*

CORNELL UNIVERSITY 1865
Professor Paul D. Evans, *Alumnus*

CASTLETON TEACHERS COLLEGE 1867
(To be designated)

WILSON COLLEGE 1869
Miss Mary B. McElwain, *Trustee*

WELLESLEY COLLEGE 1870
Margaret Clapp, *President*

SMITH COLLEGE 1871
Benjamin F. Wright, *President*

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE 1885
Mrs. Harold E. Townsend, *Alumna*

BARNARD COLLEGE 1889
Raymond S. Saulnier, *Professor*

PEMBROKE COLLEGE 1891
Nancy Duke Lewis, *Dean*

RHODE ISLAND STATE COLLEGE 1892
Carl R. Woodward, *President*

CLARKSON COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY 1896
J. H. Davis, *President*

SIMMONS COLLEGE 1899
Bancroft Beatley, *President*

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE 1904
Jeremiah K. Durick, *Professor*

LYNDON TEACHERS COLLEGE 1911
Rita L. Bole, *President*

TRINITY COLLEGE (Vt.) 1925
Martha E. Collins, *Professor*

BENNINGTON COLLEGE 1932
Frederick Burkhardt, *President*

GODDARD COLLEGE 1938
Royce Stanley Pitkin, *President*

MARLBORO COLLEGE 1946
Walter Hendricks, *President*

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The Honorable George D. Aiken,
United States Senator from the State of Vermont

The Honorable Ralph E. Flanders,
United States Senator from the State of Vermont

The Honorable Charles A. Plumley,
Representative to Congress from the State of Vermont

The Honorable Harold J. Arthur,
Governor of the State of Vermont

A. John Holden, Jr.,
Commissioner of Education from the State of Vermont

Guy E. Snavely,
Executive Director, Association of American Colleges

Oliver C. Carmichael,
President, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching